Hafa Adai!

Palacios-Apatang team endorses RB Camacho for Saipan mayor. PAGE 2
MVA: Visitor arrivals up 785% in January 2022. PAGE 3

$1

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'COVID rules may soon be eased'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the number of daily COVID-19 cases in the CNMI continue to go down, the Commonwealth could soon follow in Guam's footsteps by lifting COVID-19 restrictions that still remain in place.

According to Guillermo Lifoifoi, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. spokesperson, CHCC, in collaboration with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, will be basing their decision on the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 community levels and the CDC parameters would guide the CNMI's decision whether or not to lift COVID-19 restrictions.

Lifoifoi said that CHCC will soon issue a press release

See COVID on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:30pm, March 13, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated: **58.1%**

Days since last community transmission: **3**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	38,007
Fully Vaccinated:	37,211
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,345
Fully Vaccinated:	5,207
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,149
Additional Dose:	21,663

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	46,123	208[1]	46,331
Recovered	44,182	0	44,182
Active	1,604	208	1,812
Deaths	337	0	337

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	10,284	95[2]	10,379
Recovered	9,963	131	10,094
Active	160	95	255
Deaths	30	0	30

[1]3/13=32; 3/12=56; 3/11=120
[2]3/11=53; 3/10=42

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Impeachment committee to convene Wed.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

King-Nabors

The Senate Special Committee on the Impeachment Hearing will convene for a prehearing conference this Wednesday to set, among other deadlines, a date for when the impeachment hearing will start in the case against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

See IMPEACHMENT on Page 4

MVA says Pika Festival was huge success

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival was a huge hit, with hundreds of visitors from neighboring islands making the trip to Tinian over the weekend to partake in the island's most anticipated festival.

According to Priscilla Iakopo, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director, this year's festival was a major hit and despite the ongoing pandemic, visitors from neigh-

See MVA on Page 4

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN

Screengrab shows participants in the JC Pikalicious Burger Eating Contest trying to outdo each other in eating a hamburger laced with Tinian's signature "donne sale" (hot pepper) during the last day of the 18th Annual Tinian Pika Festival yesterday. The last day of the three-day festival also included the Tug of War contest and Estofao Cooking contest.

COVID UPDATE

95 new cases; 4 hospitalized

A combined 95 new COVID-19 cases representing two reporting periods were reported Thursday and Friday last week, while the number of individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 have declined to four, based on the latest news releases from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

On Friday, CHCC reported 53 individuals who were confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 10,379 cases since March 26, 2020. These 53 cases were identified on March 10, 2022.

The day before, CHCC reported 42 who were confirmed positive for COV-

See 95 on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The U.S. Army wraps up an exercise to remotely operate a THAAD launcher in the CNMI.

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NATION
More than two dozen Americans confront in court some members of the Sackler family.

Page 13

LIFE & STYLE
A judge sentenced Jussie Smollett to 150 days in jail for staging a hate crime against himself.

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https://tagaplus.saipantribune.com/

Local

Palacios-Apatang team endorses RB Camacho for Saipan mayor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Board of Parole chair Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, who is running for Saipan mayor in this year's election, has secured the endorsement of Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as the independent tandem's candidate for Saipan mayor on Nov. 8.

This will be Camacho's third successive run as an independent mayoral candidate.

Palacios and Apatang, who are running as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, on an independent ticket, announced their endorsement of Camacho in a news briefing at the Palacios-Apatang team's headquarters in Garapan late Friday afternoon.

"I really appreciate their trust and confidence in recruiting me and I'm willing also to join the group," said Camacho in a later interview.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Saipan mayoral candidate Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, extreme xright, gets the endorsement of, from left, incumbent Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Committee to Elect Camacho chair Ray Aldan, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, at the Palacios-Apatang headquarters in Garapan Friday late afternoon. Palacios and Apatang are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, as an independent tandem.

Camacho believes that the Palacios-Apatang group can do so much better for the CNMI.

When asked why the people of Saipan should vote for him, Camacho said that people have seen all his work in the past when he was in the municipal council, which was focused on promoting a safe and healthy community. One of Camacho's initiatives was the creation of a neighborhood watch.

"I'm really for serving the community. Once the community steps up to the plate, it will lessen these problems that we are facing, specifically crimes in villages," he said.

Camacho said he is a retired police officer and had been in the police for 20 years and that he sees that the police and the government cannot do it by themselves.

"We need to invite the community in, in order to have and promote a safe community," Camacho said.

Palacios said they are happy to have Camacho on their team, as he has served the community well in different capacities.

Palacios said they will endorse Camacho as mayor, while Camacho will endorse their team.

Apatang said Camacho has been following their group since the beginning and that he is a very aggressive candidate.

Apatang said that they will be "working together, hand in hand" with Camacho for this election.

Apatang beat Camacho in the last two mayoral races.

For this year's mayoral race, Camacho will be facing off with Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero of the NMI Republican Party and Rep. Richard T. Lizama of the NMI Democratic Party.

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MVA: Visitor arrivals up 785% in January 2022

Visitor arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota grew 785% percent to 2,052 visitors in January 2022, compared to 232 visitors received in January 2021, according to a Marianas Visitors Authority news release last Friday.

While the figure shows a marked recovery in arrivals as a result of the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan implemented by the MVA in July 2021, it is still a significant decrease from 55,686 visitors received in January 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating a continued challenging road ahead for the recovery of the Marianas tourism economy.

Almost all visitors in January arrived under a travel bubble agreement with South Korea, the Marianas' largest source market prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with 1,406 visitors arriving. This compares to January 2021, when the Marianas received only nine visitors from South Korea. Following a decline in demand from South Korea in December and early January due to the omicron variant and other factors, preliminary statistics from the MVA register an estimated 2,600 visitors from the country in February 2022, and arrivals are anticipated to increase gradually with the expansion of flight service over the coming months.

Recently, the Korea Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport approved two weekly flights from Busan to Saipan for Jeju Air and Air Busan beginning this month. Busan is the second largest city in Korea.

The Marianas also received 342 visitors from the United States, 253 visitors from Guam, and a combined 38 additional visitors from all other destinations in January. ***(MVA)***

THE WOMEN OF THE ROTARY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Rotary Club of Saipan joins the celebration of March as Women's History Month, highlighting the organization's many female members and featuring special advisor for Women's Affairs Shirley Ogumoro, center, of the Women's Affair Office during one of the Rotary Club's weekly meetings. Others in the photo are, from left, Beth Demapan, Mary Grace Bautista, Kimberly Murdock, Joann Aquino, Tatiana Babauta, Jessy Loomis, honorary Rotarian Yulia Shatskova, and Irene Holl.

WWII-era munitions to be blown up today

CNMI authorities will be blowing up World War II-era bombs and other munitions at the Marpi Blow Pit today, March 14, between the hours of 1pm and 4pm. This means that the Marpi Road, as well as the Marpi Landfill, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, and Grotto, will be close for the duration of this operation.

The general location of this activity will be at Marpi Blow Pit within 500 feet radius on all quadrants to 2,500 feet above sea level.

Due to the danger imposed by these activities, the CNMI Emergency Operation Center - State Warning Point is strongly advising the public to stay away from these areas during the time and date indicated.

This activity is being done with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the HydroGeologic Munitions Team.

For more information, contact (670) 237-8000. ***(PR/ Saipan Tribnune)***

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Aldan says House version of bill for retirees' bonuses will impact Tinian tourism industry

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan is rejecting a House of Representatives proposal to take tourism money that was allocated to municipalities to fund the $1,000 bonuses for government retirees.

At a Senate session on Tinian Thursday, Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) also explained why she voted "yes" with reservations to the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 22-09 that approves Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request to create a new program and business unit for the government retirees' $1,000 bonuses.

Aldan

The full Senate unanimously adopted during Thursday's session Senate Resolution 22-09, which also approves Torres' request to reprogram $2.6 million from within the Executive Branch for the payment of the retirees' bonuses.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) prefiled the resolution last Monday and five other Republican senators.

Speaking during the session's public comments portion, Aldan said if the House's version as proposed by the House conferees continues to be the route for the bonuses' legislation to take, it will impact the Tinian municipality.

Aldan urged the Senate to reject the House's intent to use Hotel Occupancy Tax funds for the bonuses and identify an alternative funding source for the bonuses so he can continue to promote, rebuild and enhance Tinian's tourism industry.

The mayor said he fully supports the CNMI Legislature's intent to provide government retirees' $1,000 bonuses and that he hopes that the House and Senate could soon agree on a method to fund the bonuses so the retirees can receive their financial assistance.

» Santos explains why she voted 'yes' with reservations to joint resolution approving Torres' request

However, Aldan pointed out, it is also his understanding that the House intends to fund the bonuses from HOT allocated to the municipalities through the Marianas Visitors Authority.

He said that, according to the Hotel Association of the NMI, the hotel occupancy rate in February 2022 was only 24%, which is a significant reduction of HOT funds received prior to COVID-19 pandemic.

Santos

The mayor noted that these HOT funds are the only funds available to promote or revitalize the tourism industry on Tinian. Moreover, he said, these funds are used to fund annual festivals and for the maintenance of their public beaches and tourist sites.

"These are a grave concern to our municipality. As you know, we have committed and continue to make sure that we maintain these beaches. We are talking about cleaning the toilets, making sure they pick up the trash in the morning and in the evening," Aldan said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

WIA receiving $1.5M more to hire dislocated workers

The Commonwealth's Workforce Investment Agency is receiving a supplemental award of up to $1.5 million to hire persons who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic for humanitarian assistance positions.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that the U.S. Department of Labor announced the supplemental award this week.

Sablan

Sablan said this National Dislocated Worker Grant is funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, and is in addition to $1.5 million already received by the CNMI in April 2020.

He said $800,000 from the supplemental award is being released initially to pay workers to deliver medicine, food, and supplies to the elderly or to clean and sanitize public schools and health facilities.

"The money can also be used for training. Congratulations to the Workforce Investment Agency!" Sablan said.

The funding award for dislocated workers is part of the $350 million Congress made available to the U.S. Department of Labor in the CARES Act. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

IMPEACHMENT

From Page 1

In a memorandum Saturday, Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), who chairs the Special Impeachment Committee, notified committee members about the prehearing conference at 10am in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

The meeting's agenda includes establishing deadlines: for the submission of the House Impeachment Record, for the filing of pertinent motions, for the exchange of witness and exhibit lists, projected time required by the parties for the presentation of their cases, and any other matters before the committee.

Attendance of all Legislative Bureau support staff assigned to assist in the Senate impeachment proceedings are required.

Pursuant to COVID-19 protocols, written testimonies may be delivered to the Senate entrance or sent via email to Senate clerk Dolores S. Bermudes at dolores-bermudes.lb@gmail.com.

Oral testimonies may be presented during the comment portion of the meeting. King-Nabors limited oral testimonies not to exceed 5 minutes, but longer statements in writing may be accepted.

For those who wish to present an oral testimony, they have to inform the Senate clerk 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting at (670) 664-8850 or via email.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) formed last Thursday the Special Impeachment Committee that will look into House Resolution 22-14, which impeached Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

Hofschneider appointed King-Nabors as chairman, Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) as vice chairman, and members Sens. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota).

It was King-Nabors and Cruz, as chairpersons of the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal Relations, and Committee on Executive, Appointments and Government Investigations, respectively, who drafted the Impeachment Rules that the full Senate adopted last March 3.

That set the stage for what is expected to be a partisan brawl between the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives that will decide whether to remove or not Torres as governor.

Torres, who is the titular head of the CNMI Republican Party, is seeking re-election this Nov. 8 election.

COVID

From Page 1

about this.

Over a week ago, CHCC shared that the CNMI fell under the "High" category of these community levels but, as of last week, daily positive cases have been dropping significantly, which means the CNMI could soon possibly see these restrictions lifted, Lifoifoi said.

"The community levels we adopted two weeks ago will drive that decision. We are in the High level, [but] dropping," he said.

Lifoifoi was quick to add, though, that the CNMI won't be seeing any changes in terms of COVID-19 restrictions until the CNMI falls under the medium category of the CDC's COVID-19 community levels.

Fortunately, based on recent data, the CNMI could soon be placed in the medium category.

"We won't see a change until we reach medium. It's looking like [the CNMI could be reduced to medium soon]. We will have data later this week," Lifoifoi said.

Effective last Friday, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero lifted outdoor social gathering limits and withdrew the vaccine requirements for government employees. Prior to the executive order signed last Friday, outdoor social gatherings were limited to 100 people.

Several other countries, including many parts of the United States, have started easing their COVID-19 rules. In South Korea, fully vaccinated travelers arriving from foreign countries will no longer be required to undergo quarantine starting March 21. The South Korean Health Ministry announced last Friday that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be exempted from self-quarantine when entering South Korea. However, these travelers will still need to take the rapid antigen tests six and seven days after entering the country.

During a virtual press briefing over a week ago, Stephanie Kern-Allely, regional communicable disease epidemiologist for the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, said the Commonwealth currently falls under the "High" category of the CDC's COVID-19 community levels based on COVID-19 data from March 1.

In late February, the CDC released new COVID-19 guidelines, including metrics to measure COVID-19 community levels. The three new metrics used to measure COVID-19 community levels include: new COVID cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days, new COVID admissions per 100,000 people, and the percent of inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients.

Although the CNMI is considered low on two of these three metrics, because of the consistent high number of daily cases, the CNMI fell under the high category.

Fortunately, despite the current high transmission rate, the CNMI is slowly starting to see a decline in the number of daily cases.

In terms of daily COVID-19 admissions, Kern-Allely said the CNMI has been fairly stable.

As for the third metric—percentage of inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients—the CNMI is hovering at around 12% to about 10%, which is around the medium category.

95

From Page 1

ID-19, all of them identified on March 9, 2022. Of that number, five were identified on Tinian.

The vaccination statuses of the 95 new cases are still pending verification.

Of the 10,379 total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have been 10,094 recoveries; 255 active cases; and 30 COVID-19-related deaths. A total of 9,661 were identified via community testing and 718 via travel testing.

On the vaccination front, a total of 94 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on March 11, 2022; of the eligible population, 57.8% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 326 COVID-19 tests were conducted on March 10, 2022: 266 via Community-Based Testing; 30 at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; and 30 at the Rota Health Center. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MVA

From Page 1

boring islands, including the Northern Islands, made the voyage to Tinian.

"The Tinian Hot Pepper 'Pika' Festival was a huge success. We had visitors from Guam, Saipan, Rota, Northern Islands, and military service members attended and enjoyed the Pika Fest," she said. The festival is popularly known locally as the Pika Festival; "pika" means "hot" in the vernacular.

The festival's bike race, non-stop live entertainment, and various competitions gave festival goers the chance to win hundreds of dollars' worth of prizes.

In addition, this year, MVA awarded 18 individuals who received their COVID-19 booster shots, up to $7,000.

"The three-day event consisted of the Pika Bike Race, organized by the Bikers Association of Tinian, sponsored by the mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan and the Marianas Visitors Authority. The Pika Fest proceeded with non-stop live entertainment, the hot pepper eating contest, Estufao Katdun Pika cooking contest, JC Cafe Pika Burger contest, Cha Cha Dance contest, and Umang Race. Throughout the three-night event, the MVA gave away up to $7,000 cash prizes to 18 winners, as it is the 18th Annual Pika Fest, for Tinian residents who received their booster shots," Iakopo said.

This year, MVA also expanded the festival grounds, booked daily charter ferries, and even added an additional night to the festivities.

Star Marianas Air also worked with MVA to add additional flights to accommodate those who wanted to experience the festival.

Iakopo said the success of this year's 18th Pika Festival would not have been possible without help from volunteers and sponsors.

She also cited the Office of the Governor, Office of the Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor, Tinian Legislative Delegation, Tinian Municipal Council, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Lands, Coastal Resources Management, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control, and Star Marianas Air "for your support and partnership in making Pika Fest a successful event," she said.

"Special thanks to our sponsors, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, IT&E, Triple J Bar K, Bank of Guam, JC Cafe, and McDonald's Saipan for their generous support of the Pika Festival. To all the vendors, thank you for providing all visitors an opportunity to taste your delicious cuisine, beverages and your creative arts and crafts. Your participation is greatly appreciated," Iakopo added.

House: Senate joint resolution unlawful

The unanimous passage of Senate Joint Resolution 22-09 will further delay the bonus disbursement for CNMI retirees promised by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as it suffers from the same fundamental flaw as its predecessors.

As previously identified by House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Section 7402 of the Commonwealth Code, which covers Reprogramming Authority within the Planning and Budgeting Act, clearly prevents the transfer of funds into an unfunded business unit:

"No funds may be reprogrammed to any account which has been zero-funded by the legislature or to any account for which the legislature has not made an appropriation. Any person who reprograms government funds or knowingly receives reprogrammed funds in contravention of this subsection shall be held personally liable for the amount of the reprogrammed account."

The House leadership hoped to avoid another delay to the proposed retiree bonuses when Villagomez requested for a bicameral conference with the Senate leadership to resolve the outstanding issues with the Senate proposals.

In last Thursday's session, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) repeated his refusal to appoint conferees to address the issues related to the retiree bonuses and pushed ahead with legislation that reinforced the disconnect on Capital Hill.

CNMI retirees were initially promised bonus payments when Torres announced his plan in his government-paid media availability that aired last December. Finance Secretary David Atalig later confirmed the governor could have allocated the $500 bonus under his 25% reprogramming authority back in December if he would have approached the Legislature to establish an appropriately funded business unit.

Last month, House Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed bipartisan House Bill 22-95 to allocate the initial $1.3 million identified in H.B. 22-91 as well as an additional $1.3 million reappropriated from the governor's discretionary account, the Office of the Governor and the Department of Finance. The House deferred action on the legislation in a good faith attempt to work with their counterparts in the Senate to find a mutually agreeable solution.

Governor, Senate fail to act on CNMI economic impact payments

Despite the unanimous passage of House Joint Resolution 22-12 two months ago, the Senate leadership and Torres remain silent on the call for the issuance of a new local stimulus payment of $500 per resident and $500 per dependent.

House Health and Welfare chair Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan), introduced the bipartisan legislation to match the eligibility guidelines from the previous federal stimulus packages but the Senate has yet to take any action on it.

"At this point, it seems clear the governor is not interested in providing additional support to our people who are struggling with the highest fuel prices in our history and suffocating under the weight of rampant inflation. This is an allowable use of the ARPA funds and the governor knows it, yet he continues to turn a deaf ear to those who need it most," she said.

H.J.R. 22-12 also strongly urges the economic impact payments to be made directly to qualified households instead of limiting spending options to local vendors that accepted Visa debit cards, as with the previous local stimulus distribution. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 8am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- **I.** Meeting Call to Order
- **II.** Determination of Quorum
- **III.** Review and Adoption of Agenda
- **IV.** Review and Adoption of Minutes (01/26/2022)
- **V.** Public Comments
  - • Rep. Tina Sablan online via zoom
- **VI.** Chairperson's Report
  - **A.** Re-nomination of expired board members
    1. Theodore R. Parker
    2. Tiffany L. Willis
  - **B.** OPA Financial Statement Report due May 1st.
  - **C.** FSMB 2022 Annual Business Meeting – April 28-30, 2022.
- **VII.** Director's Report
  - **A.** Public Law 22-14 – Removal of Board terms
  - **B.** 2022 National Councils Meeting Schedules
- **VIII.** Investigator's Report
- **IX.** Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  - **A.** Governor's Office
  - **B.** Legislature
    - • HB-22-80: Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (Request for public comments)
- **X.** Old Business
- **XI.** New Business
  - • Cleaning up application forms and instructions.
  - • Cleaning up application fees. Establishing electronic payment mechanism.
  - • Finding background check company and payment system for same.
- **XII.** Pending Applications for Board's Review
  - **A.** New Application
  - **B.** Renewal Applications
- **XIII.** Miscellaneous Business
- **XIV.** Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- **XV.** Announcements
  - **A.** Next Meeting Date
  - **B.** Adjournment of Meeting

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS RFQ22-GOV-42200082

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM April 6, 2022

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FOR PROVISIONS OF ARCHITECT/ ENGINEERING SERVICES 702 CIP PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from **Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Capital Improvement Projects funded under the 702 Covenant Funding.**

Interested parties may pick up the applicable Scope of Work (SOW) and Submittal Requirements at the Office of Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning **Monday, March 7, 2022** during regular working hours. Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineers, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultant. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a one-year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of personnel or sub-consultants – 30%
2. Past Experience and Performance as a Project Manager – 40%
3. Project Methodology – 30%
4. Fee Proposal – 0%

Questions regarding this RFQ must be in writing and submitted via email to Ms. Jessel Mesa at jesselmesa.cip@gmail.com no later than 4:00 p.m. (ChST) **Monday, March 28, 2022**

Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting the Notice of Intent to Propose Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) **Wednesday, April 6, 2022** and may be sent via email to bidintent@dof.gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Tels: (670) 233-9447
233-9448
233-9449
233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

03/03/2022

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 18, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
Road and drainage improvement project for the Carolinas Heights in the island of Tinian.

The project is an unpaved road that serves residents, farmers, and tourists. It is also where the main water line was installed and connected to the one-million gallon water tank serving 2/3 of the population of Tinian. This road has been a constant rebuild, resurfacing and maintenance prone for every heavy rainfall in this area. The vehicles driven on this stretch of road after heavy rains sometimes become difficult to drive through due to large rocks or crevices created from the water run-off. The heavy silt and clay end up blocking the roadway or discharge to nearby farmlands. The CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW) proposes to replace the current road conditions to a paved road and with concrete swales on both sides of the road to convey and divert the water runoff to a nearby existing old quarry. This will prevent erosions to the area and protect the existing main water line from future storms.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is an essential component that supports low-income to moderate income families who will live in reconstructed/rehabilitated/newly constructed homes in the area. Consequently, NMHC finds an immediate urgency to fund DPW's unmet public infrastructure needs; specifically, this road improvement project and for the ensuing reasons.

Location:
Carolinas Height Road, Lat. 14º 57' 45" N, Long. 145º 38' 44" E, Tinian, MP 96951

Total Project Cost:
$1,619,755.00- The project is funded entirely by the CDBG-DR program.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **March 18, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

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03/09/2022

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 25, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
Public School System (PSS) Marianas High School (MHS) Career and Technical Center (CTE) construction of a new building.

The MHS CTE was damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu around October 2018. The MHS CTE building was assessed and evaluated by FEMA representatives and found that the extent of the damage for repair cost exceeded beyond 87.5% of the building replacement. Instead of partial repairs of the building, it was determined it is more beneficial for the CNMI to construct a new building.

This project is about 50,000 square feet two-storey concrete building. The building will house the following programs: The hospitality and tourism training; Automotive technology workshop; Computer and Server supporting information technology; Cosmetology classroom and mock-up salon and laboratory space; Health science and nursing space with clinic; Dressing room and storage; Music room for performing arts; and Commercial teaching kitchen for culinary arts.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the PSS MHS CTE is an essential component that trains 600 students annually for careers and skills needed in the CNMI economy. The need to fill the technical labor workforce in the CNMI begins with the training of skills and knowledge needed for employment. This project ensures the future of CNMI workforce consistency and enhancement of individual contribution to the island labor pool.

Location:
Lot 39 H 01, Susupe Village, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
$6,000,000.00:CDBG-DR funding
$6,000,000.00: Economic Development Administration (EDA)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **March 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

CUC ADVISORIES

Power service interruption on Wednesday, March 16

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on March 16, 2022.

■ Outage Time: 12:30pm to 4pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Route 31 lsa Drive (areas after San Vicente Elementary School and before Laulau Bay Drive).

■ Momentary Outage Time: 12:30pm to 1pm and 3:30pm to 4:00pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Portions of Route 31 Isa Drive in San Vicente (San Vicente Church, San Vicente Loop, Atkiya Drive, Tuturan Drive, Bentana Drive, Katbon Road and San Vicente Elementary School).

■ Purpose: To replace a 45-foot wooden primary leaning power pole to a concrete pole.

■ Circuit: Kiya 1

■ Water Well(s) Affected: SV-7, however, water services to the areas will not be affected.

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationi). ***(PR)***

Power service interruption on Thursday, March 17

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on March 17, 2022.

■ Outage Time: 6am to 12pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Chalan Kanoa Beach Road (from LF Market south toward 1-Lone in Chalan Kanoa).

■ Momentary Outage Times: **6am to 6:30am**

■ Area(s) Affected-Chalan Kanoa Beach Rd. (Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa Dr., Konsolacion St., Brigida St., Carmen Av., Bernardo St. and Barbara Av.).

11:30am to 12pm

■ Area(s) Affected-Chalan Kanoa Beach Rd. (Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa Dr., Konsolacion St., Brigida St., Carmen Av., Bernardo St., Barbara Av., Surf Club Restaurant, Sandy Beach Homes, San Isidro Ave., Juan Nong St., Flamalap Ln., A lupyang Pl., Attihong Pl. and Hopwood Middle School).

■ Purpose: To replace a 45-foot wooden primary pole with a concrete pole and to replace the air brake switch with a non-conduit type operated ABS along Beach Road fronting the Villagomez building in Chalan Kanoa.

■ Circuit: Kiya 4

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

Motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling by or through the project site or to take an alternative route as the right southbound lane fronting the Villagomez Building will be closed during the project.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates https://www.facebook.com/Com monwealthUt i tiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Power service interruption on Tuesday, March 22

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on March 22, 2022.

■ Outage Time: 12pm to 4pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Route 31 Isa Drive (from Ifet Drive to New Sarah Market in Capitol Hill).

■ Momentary Outage Time: 12pm to 12:30pm and 3:30pm to 4pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Portions of Route 31 Isa Drive in Capitol Hill (NMI Retirement Building, Legislature Building, Governor's Office, Route 36 [King Fisher], residents of Marshall Loop).

■ Purpose: To replace a 45-foot wooden primary burnt power pole with a concrete pole.

■ Circuit: Feeder 4

• Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (hftps://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Annette A. Tudela
1245 Tamara Ave. Salem, OR 97306
503-302-7300/671-682-8458

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISALNDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: L.A.T. Minor Child	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0092
By: Annette Atalig Tudela Petitioner	

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the Estate of the above-named minor children by (Name of Petitioner) Annette Atalig Tudela, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said Petition will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 11th day of July, 2022 at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7859 | Fax. (670) 234-5749
E mail: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner David Taitano Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	Civil Action No. 22-0017
ANTONIO MUNA CAMACHO	NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent.	DATE: MARCH 17, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M. JUDGE: CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANTONIO MUNA CAMACHO HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David Taitano Camacho has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Antonio Muna Camacho, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of February 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/SEPUTY CLERK

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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Fax: (670) 234-9021
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PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)
March 14, 2022

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Annual Community Assessment (ACA) Report for Program Year 2020 is available for review.

The Report contains information regarding the CNMI's performance in addressing and fulfilling the Community Planning and Development (CPD) grant requirements.

The report is available on NMHC's website at www.nmhcgov.net and at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review the report must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The price to protect freedom, paid at your local gas station

Gasoline? Up. Natural gas? Up. Wheat? Up. The spending power of your bank account? Down, down, down.

The U.S. has been experiencing inflation at the highest level in more than 40 years, reaching a 7.9% annual rate in February, and Russia's attack on Ukraine is making matters even worse.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the government poured money into the economy to pull it out of recession. As people hunkered down to avoid the virus, supply chains faltered and demand shifted from services to goods. Prices for all kinds of stuff shot up as a result.

Now comes the Russian invasion, at an especially vulnerable time for global commerce.

Even though Russia's gross domestic product is smaller than South Korea's or Canada's, it is the No. 3 producer of oil and a big supplier of other raw materials. Europeans depend heavily on its exports of fossil fuels. Its industrial metals also are crucial.

Sanctions aimed at isolating Russia have disrupted world trade and sent commodity prices soaring to an extent unseen since the oil crises of the 1970s. Europe may need to ration heating fuel and gasoline. Poorer countries, sadly, could experience food shortages and even widespread hunger.

What to do? First, resist the temptation to mess with financial markets. That goes for everyone, up to and including President Joe Biden, who faces low approval ratings and a midterm election that's shaping up badly for his fellow Democrats.

In the past, politicians unhappy with market forces have tried to thwart them by imposing new price limits, which undermine confidence. Worse still would be price controls, which don't work and undermine confidence even more.

The markets are doing their job of matching buyers and sellers at the prices each side is willing to accept. We've even seen some rebounds lately. Let the markets be.

So far, the Biden administration has taken only a few, mostly ineffective, steps to blunt inflation. The White House has warned energy companies against price gouging while at the same time cheerleading for increased domestic production. It also coordinated the release of emergency petroleum reserves with U.S. allies.

Democrats in Congress have proposed waiving the federal 18.4 cents a gallon gasoline tax until after the midterms, which sounds helpful on the surface. But history teaches us that temporary tax holidays can have disappointingly little effect on retail gas prices, since the sellers often just then raise their prices. So don't look to that for much help.

On the diplomatic front, the administration has signaled support for a nuclear accord that could remove sanctions on

See PRICE on Next Page

What more can the West do to help Ukraine?

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

On March 8, the United States banned the import of Russian oil and gas, the latest in a slew of sanctions imposed on Russia since the invasion. But from Kyiv to the halls of Congress, people are urging that the West do more. So what more can and should be done?

The categories of options, in rough order of least to most controversial, include diplomatic, humanitarian, economic, military support and direct military action.

Diplomatic efforts should continue. Chances for success in direct talks with Russia may be low, but the cost of pursuing them is too. A greater U.S. focus is persuading China to press Russia for peace, and rightly so. This war isn't in China's interest either. Though China hasn't sanctioned or condemned Russia, Putin's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty doesn't sit well with President Xi Jinping, and financial sanctions and export controls are complicating for any country that trades with both Russia and the West.

Humanitarian assistance has little impact on the war but is essential to minimize suffering. In addition to financial support to humanitarian organizations and the countries receiving the most refugees, the West should facilitate refugee travel elsewhere, through visa-free travel or expedited visa services, particularly where refugees have family support.

Economic efforts thus far have been historic. The U.S., European Union, Canada, and others have imposed the most comprehensive and consequential sanctions the world has ever seen, including sanctioning the Central Bank of Russia to prevent Vladimir Putin's government from accessing most of its $630 billion in foreign currency reserves. These efforts are tanking the Russian economy. While this could reinforce Putin's message at home that the West is out to destroy the Russian people, the cost will undoubtedly impede his war effort. Wars aren't cheap, after all.

But more can be done with sanctions, too. The U.S. embargo on Russian oil and gas is the first time America has acted out of line with EU allies since the war began. Germany remains opposed to an energy embargo because it is far more dependent on Russia for gas. But with energy accounting for nearly 40% of Russia's federal budget revenue, cutting off this source of income would strike a further blow to Russia's ability to continue the war. The U.S. should continue to press the EU to join this effort and help Germany backfill its energy needs.

While sanctions make it harder for Russia to pay for the war, military assistance helps raise the cost of continuing it. The Ukrainian military and its civilian volunteers have proven formidable but need help to drag this out beyond Russia's capacity.

More than a dozen countries have provided or agreed to provide lethal assistance to Ukrainian forces. The European Union will provide about $500 million in lethal arms, a first for the EU. The U.S. has announced an additional $350 million in military aid, with new legislation promising a further $3 billion in new weapons. The provision of thousands of antitank weapons has helped the Ukrainians keep up the fight and stalled Russian efforts to subdue cities like Kyiv.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has specifically asked NATO countries to provide additional fighter jets, but this invites both logistical and practical issues that suggest the reward might not be worth the risk. Russia would undoubtedly view that as an escalation of NATO's participation in the war, which is why Poland has resisted providing its aircraft directly.

It is also unclear how effective this risky resource would be. Many Ukrainian aircraft are already being shot down. If Ukraine had even more air power, Russia would likely respond by taking out airfields and maintenance facilities. This would render additional aircraft useless unless NATO countries were willing to base and service them in NATO territory. This is something they are unlikely to do if they still aim to stay out of the war. At this stage, other munitions likely remain a better bet.

Calls for NATO to implement a no-fly zone over Ukraine, or parts of it, have proven the most contentious question in public discourse, but NATO leaders have remained of one voice against it so far. A no-fly zone might sound benign and feel essential, but it would put NATO pilots and jets in direct conflict with Russian pilots and jets over Ukrainian territory, likely leading to NATO forces shooting Russian forces down, thus spurring the direct war NATO is seeking to avoid. The greatest fear is surely nuclear conflict, but even conventional warfare between NATO and Russia becomes World War III. As bad as this war is now, expanding it would be worse.

The fundamental interest of the U.S. and our allies is to protect our direct national interests and prevent war from coming home. Undoubtedly, Russia's war in Ukraine presents a threat to interests we have in our integrated global economy, international norms undergirding peace and the very concept of democracy. But any government must first look out for the direct security of its citizens. When considering what further actions the U.S. and our allies should take, it helps to keep that imperative in mind.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

5 IEP meeting tips for parents

By **SHANIAH ALVAREZ**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

What is an IEP? It is an Individualized Education Plan. It is a plan or program developed to ensure that a student between ages 3 and 21 years old with a disability needing specialized instruction receives FAPE, or Free Appropriate Public Education. This plan creates an opportunity for parents, general education teachers, special education teachers, school administrators, related services personnel, and the student to work together to improve and provide free appropriate education to the student with this need.

If you are a parent of a child with a disability and you are concerned about their educational progress, you can request an evaluation from the school to determine if your child qualifies for an IEP.

In order for an IEP to begin, the parent must sign a consent form for the child to be evaluated. Once the parent signs, the clock begins, and the school has 60 days to determine if the child needs special education services. Once the school decides that an IEP is needed, the team will hold an initial meeting to develop the contents of your child's IEP with you—this will be about their educational goals as well as accommodations/modifications to meet their needs in school.

Here are some important tips that can help parents feel more prepared before, during, and after an IEP meeting!

Make sure you understand why your child qualifies for an IEP. Understand the findings in the evaluation and why an IEP is recommended. Sit down with the school professionals involved in completing the evaluation and ask them to go over it with you, so you have a better understanding of the findings. It will help hone in on issues, best practices, and more. This is where a parent can assist in evaluations by sharing information on their child to better understand some of the student's issues. https://educationandbehavior.com/iep-meeting-tips-for-parents/

Learn about special education laws! It is important to know your rights as a parent with a child who has an IEP. Look for reputable sources. This can help you navigate decisions on the IEP and ask the right questions during the meeting. Advocates from the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. can provide information and technical assistance in understanding Special Education Law to help parents better advocate for services for their child. https://educationandbehavior.com/iep-meeting-tips-for-parents/

Make a list of questions you want to ask before going into the IEP meeting. This will help you ensure that you discuss all the important topics you want to address to guarantee your child is receiving the best service for their specific needs. Sample questions that can help are, "How are the IEP goals being monitored and implemented? How will I receive updates on my child's progress? If the school goes into remote learning, how will my child receive his/her IEP services?" https://educationandbehavior.com/iep-meeting-tips-for-parents/

Keep well-organized records of your child's documents related to their IEP. When you keep copies of these important documents, you keep track of their progress, needs, goals, services, and any other relevant information. This helps better prepare you for the next IEP meeting. https://specialednews.com/top-iep-tips-for-parents/

Provide a list of your child's strengths, areas of improvement, and learning styles. This list can help the school understand your child's behavior, strengths, and challenges better. It also helps you and the school work together to keep improving strengths, work on challenges, and implement the best learning style suited for your child at home and at school. You know your child best. Share that! https://www.smartkidswithld.org/getting-help/the-abcs-of-ieps/iep-meeting-6-tips-parents/

For more information or assistance, contact NMPASI at 670-235-7273 (voice), (670) 285-0652 via text message or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org For more information, also see Special Education Program Rules and Regulations, NMIAC 60-50-001 et seq.

Shaniah Alvarez is a client advocate at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

PRICE

From Page 8

Iran's crude-oil production, potentially restoring 1 million barrels a day to the marketplace. Similarly, it may relax sanctions against Venezuela, which has enormous oil reserves.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have doubled down on promoting electric vehicles and green energy sources as an alternative to pricey oil and gas. Europeans are far ahead of the U.S. on that climate-friendly path, and likely to move even faster now.

While those steps could help in the future, they will make little difference today. It's not as if Europe can rip out its natural gas-fueled boilers and replace them with electric heat overnight, or permanently park its gasoline-powered cars. About all we can reasonably expect is conservation, which is a natural, market-based reaction to sky-high prices.

For the U.S. economy, the next step is needed ASAP: higher interest rates.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has a "dual mandate" to promote full employment and control inflation. The job market is hot, so the central bank has room for maneuvering on that side of the ledger. The Fed has been slow to address inflation, however, and now Russian President Vladimir Putin has backed it into a corner.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell told Congress he will push for a quarter-point increase in the federal-funds rate when the Fed's policymaking committee meets next week. That's just for starters.

Chicago Federal Reserve Bank President Charles Evans recently told CNBC that the central bank should increase its base rate to as high as 2% by the end of this year, which would require a rapid series of interest-rate hikes.

Jacking up rates to that extent would be strong medicine against inflation, but it also would put a damper on economic growth. No wonder the stock market has taken a hit, and analysts have cut back bullish forecasts. America and Europe are fighting an economic war and, inevitably, their citizens will pay the price.

Russia's brutal assault on Ukraine has no silver lining, but lessons can be drawn from it. First, Putin has revealed himself to be a danger that must be confronted, despite the clear economic costs. Europe, especially, needs to reorient its economies to keep Russia isolated. It is heartening to see alliances strained under the Trump administration being shored up to enable a unified effort against Putin's aggression.

Most heartening is the brave example of the ordinary people of Ukraine. For generations, Ukrainians were denied the freedom that Americans have long enjoyed. Given their current life-and-death struggle against aggression, it is small-minded to moan about the price of gasoline at the local pump or groceries at the supermarket.

Let's hope our country can follow the Ukrainian example and pull together to protect democracy, even at $4-plus a gallon.

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What's driving up gas prices—and why the White House won't help

By **KATIE TUBB**
The Heritage Foundation

Katie Tubb is a senior policy analyst for energy and environmental issues in the Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

When a news anchor confronted Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm about high gasoline prices and asked about the Biden administration's plan to increase oil production in America, she burst into laughter. "That is hilarious," she said.

It was early November 2021, and gas prices were averaging $3.39 nationally. The reporter wasn't laughing. And now, with the average price well above $4 and still climbing, no one else is either.

Americans feel the pressure build every time they fill up, of course, but it doesn't stop there. Think of all the activities, goods and services that rely on transportation, and one starts to see how higher gasoline prices increase costs throughout the entire economy.

What, many are asking, is going on? And what can be done?

Crude oil prices account for roughly half the price of a gallon of gas, followed by refining costs, distribution, and state and local taxes. Unpacking each shows where policy choices influence the price of gasoline.

Start with the last, most straightforward factor first.

State and local taxes, most often used to fund transportation infrastructure, explain some significant differences between the price of gasoline between states. While taxes and fees in Nevada average roughly 20 cents per gallon, neighboring California's tally 50 cents or more because of the state's punishing climate policies that are designed to discourage people from driving.

Distribution -- the delivery of gasoline to the customer -- is a relatively stable contributor into the price of a gallon. But even here, policy matters. For example, federal law severely restricts the ships available to deliver energy domestically, which actually makes it cheaper for some states to import fuel from Russia than from Texas. This is especially true for coastal states with limited pipeline capacity (yet another policy choice).

Then there's refining, the process that turns oil into usable fuel. Prices increase every summer, when the EPA requires refineries to switch over to more expensive blends of gasoline to comply with Clean Air Act standards. Some states also mandate that refineries make boutique blends of gasoline, forcing customers to pay a green premium. Refinery expenses have also been increasing, as costs to comply with the EPA's renewable fuel mandate are at record highs.

Last, and certainly not least, is crude oil, which provides 90 percent of Americans' transportation fuel needs. Gasoline prices tend to follow the price of crude oil closely, and everything else being equal, Americans see an increase of 2.4 cents per gallon every time the price of a barrel of crude oil increases by $1. Since oil is a globally traded commodity, the U.S. can't set the price of oil. But domestic production—and the policies that allow or prevent that from happening—can influence it.

The world is now experiencing crude oil prices well over $100 per barrel -- prices not seen since 2014. The best way to decrease oil prices—and, given the current context, dilute Russia's sway in energy markets—is to increase supply. Yet President Joe Biden is unwilling to make the policy changes that would allow this to happen.

Biden remains adamant that the solution isn't to use all the energy resources we have, but to force a transition to a narrow set of politically preferred technologies. So while asking American oil companies for short-term production increases to bail him out of political trouble, Biden has made it clear that he intends to put them out of business in the long term.

To that end, the administration's regulatory agenda aims to choke energy supply. Even now, with Americans struggling, they want to make it more expensive and difficult to explore for and produce oil, construct and operate pipelines, and access financing and investment. And that means they have to manipulate customer demand by discouraging gasoline use in the long run.

The only reason American families and businesses are not hurting more than they already are, is because energy production is happening primarily on state and private lands, putting it a little further out of reach of Biden's anti-energy agenda. For now.

In the same month of Granholm's disastrous interview, White House press secretary Jennifer Psaki was asked whether the administration's policies contributed to gasoline prices, to which she responded with surprising honesty: "The rise in gas prices over the long term makes an even stronger case for doubling down our investment and our focus on clean energy options."

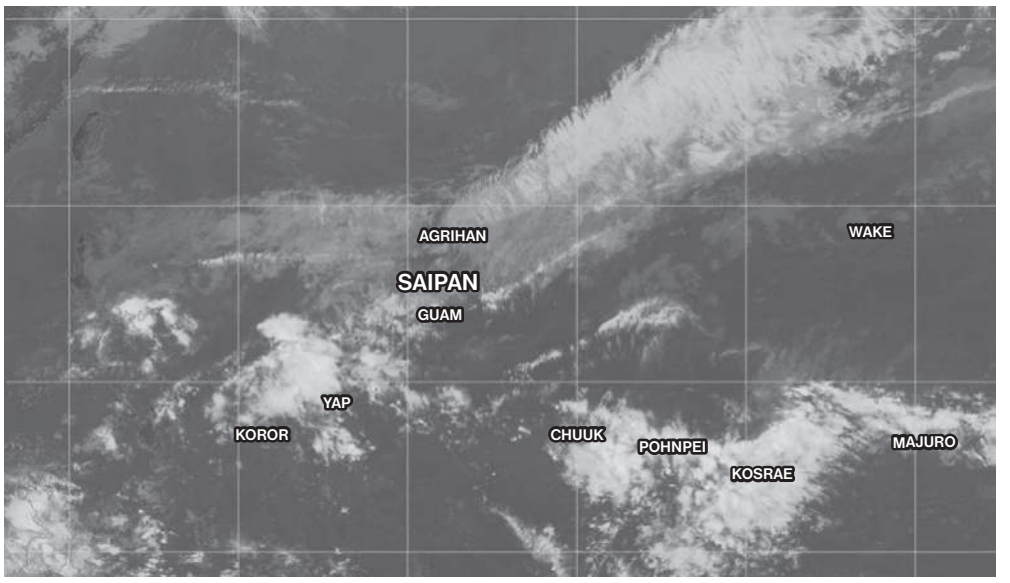
In other words: High prices are a feature, not a bug, of this administration's policies.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

FRIDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain.
88° 77°	86° 77	87° 76°	86° 75°	86° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows the shear line is continuing to pull away to the northwest. Doppler radar and satellite suggests most of theshowers are now west of Tinian and Saipan waters, and in the northern portions of Saipan waters. Currently, the Ritidian buoy indicates seas around 6.2 feet, while Ipan has 5.7 feet, which is a about a foot less from about 12 hours ago.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	29 / 25 °F
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorm	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:25 AM	18:26 PM
Tuesday	06:25 AM	18:27 PM
Wednesday	06:24 AM	18:27 PM
Thursday	06:23 AM	18:27 PM
Friday	06:22 AM	18:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	03:28 PM	14:56
Tuesday	-	04:14 PM	15:50
Wednesday	-	04:58 PM	16:43
Thursday	-	05:39 PM	17:36
Friday	-	06:19 PM	18:29

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	25 / 16 °F
Beijing	Sunny	21 / 4 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	25 / 20 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloud	28 / 21 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	14 / 4 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	25 / 11 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	32 / 26 °F
Melbourne	PM Thunderstorms	28 / 17 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	25 / 23 °F
New York	Mostly Sunny	13 / 5 °F
Osaka	AM Light Rain	20 / 15 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	15 / 9 °F
Busan	Showers	14 / 7 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	18 / 5 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	19 / 9 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	16 / 11 °F
Seoul	Rain	13 / 2 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	23 / 10 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	15 / 85°F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
06:33 AM	High Tide	1.57
11:49 AM	Low Tide	1:10
4:26 PM	High Tide	1:49
11:48 PM	Low Tide	-0.04

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Guam-based THAAD gains agility with remote-firing capability

BY WYATT OLSON
STARS AND STRIPES

Although a comprehensive missile defense system for Guam remains a work in progress, the U.S. Army recently tested technology that makes its Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system for the island nimbler and more versatile.

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command recently wrapped up Operation Talon Lightning, the first exercise to remotely operate a THAAD launcher in the Northern Mariana Islands, according to Capt. Nicholas Chopp, a spokesman for the Hawaii-based command.

The Army has operated a THAAD—consisting of a command-and-control center, radar array and interceptor launchers—from Andersen Air Force Base on Guam since 2013.

Earlier this month, an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III plane shuttled a THAAD launchers from Guam to Rota, about 55 miles to the north. It was equipped with new software designed for remote communication.

"The soldiers have been working since the month of January learning how to operate the new capability and learning how to configure a system in order to make this mission happen last week," Maj. Juan F. Rivera, the future operations planner for the 94th, told *Stars and Stripes* by phone Wednesday.

No interceptor missiles were brought to Rota, Rivera said.

U.S. ARMY

A launcher for a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, missile defense system is unloaded from an Air Force C-17 at Rota International Airport, March 4, 2022.

The exercise, which ended March 7, tested only the capacity for the command center in Guam to communicate remotely with the crew of roughly 20 soldiers manning the launcher.

"I think we have achieved 100% mission success on demonstrating remote-launch capability," he said.

The battery was able to communicate and essentially extend its ability beyond Guam to defend the Northern Marianas and Guam simultaneously, Rivera said.

"With this remote launch capability, the fire control officers can stay in Guam and fire missiles from other islands and other places in the second island chain," he said.

Guam is of growing strategic importance to the United States as it grapples with a more assertive China. As the closest U.S. territory to the contested South China Sea, Guam is seen by the Pentagon as a strategic hub for projecting power in the region.

Beijing has taken notice. In 2020, China's air force released a video showing a simulated bomber attack on what appeared to be Andersen.

The head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Adm. John Aquilino, reiterated the importance of Guam and its defense during a hearing Wednesday before the House Armed Services Committee.

"The area in the Indo-Pacific is expansive—half the globe," he said. "And a lot of it is water. So to be able to posture forces in places that matter with the right capabilities, we've focused on Guam as a strategic hub, as you would expect."

Aquilino told the lawmakers that a comprehensive missile defense system for Guam is his "number one unfunded request."

The Pentagon is in the final stages of a missile defense review that will "lay out strategy and priorities" and clarify the way forward on Guam's missile defense, Ely Ratner, assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs, told committee members.

For the time being, the Army's THAAD remains the island's primary land-based missile defense system. But with the new-found capability of operating as a detached system, it becomes a bit harder for an adversary to disable it.

"It's sort of this concept of, 'Don't keep all your eggs in one basket,'" Rivera said.

"We continue to modernize our weapon systems so that we're not so predictable and one-dimensional," he said. "We will continue to evolve our systems, and this is one example of how we're able to work with our defense industry to make our system more survivable and provide even greater protection than we already do"

US envoy to FSM to be nominated to lead DOI division

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The White House announced Friday its intent to nominate Carmen G. Cantor to be assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs at the Department of the Interior. The nomination will now be considered by the U.S. Senate.

"The territories are an integral part of the fabric of America, and the freely associated states are uniquely interwoven with the United States in terms of a shared history, ongoing partnership, and a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. "Carmen's extensive experience as a diplomat will help ensure that insular areas have the resources and support they need to mitigate climate-related challenges, address critical infrastructure projects, and promote economic development."

Cantor is a career member of the Senior Executive Service and currently serves as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Federated States of Micronesia. Previously, she served in various roles within the Department of State, including as the executive director of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Bureau of International Information Programs, executive director of the Bureau of Counterterrorism, director of the Office of Civil Service Human Resource Management and as deputy director for Recruitment, Examination, and Employment.

Cantor

Cantor also served as director of the Office of Civil Rights for the Foreign Agricultural Service, and as director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity at the Federal Maritime Commission. She earned a B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico and an M.A. from the American University of Puerto Rico.

The assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Interior secretary's responsibilities for U.S.-affiliated insular areas, which includes the territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Residents of these U.S. territories are U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance to three freely associated states: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. ***(PR)***

Brilliant Star School
Global Understanding • Service to Humanity • Exemplary Character • Creative Minds

Teacher Aide needed March, 2022

Duties are to assist the lead teacher, preparing curriculum materials as directed, setting up and cleaning up each day. Also to supervise children using materials as directed. Mandarin and English speaking preferred. Previous knowledge of Montessori pedagogy and experience working with young children a plus.
Contact Steven Beyer at principal@brilliantstar.org

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ITB22-CHCC/HDP-012
HEALTH DISPARITIES PROGRAM (HDP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 4TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00 AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV. MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: Principal/Head of School
OPENING DATE: March 1, 2022
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Until Filled

NATURE OF WORK:
The primary role of the Principal is to articulate the vision and mission of the school, provide academic leadership, take leadership in the admissions and recruitment process, build community among students and families: recruit and coach faculty members and staff, oversee the financial health of the school, serve as the school's primary spokesperson to the larger community, and lead the process of internal self-evaluation and long-term planning. The activities of the Principal are guided by the Board of Trustees.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Education or related field, plus at least two years of teaching experience and two years of supervisory experience in a similar setting. A background in Montessori teaching or knowledge thereof is a plus.

SALARY/BENEFITS:
Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (Including 401K benefits, Health insurance, Paid Leave/Holidays.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including giving and receiving feedback.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural issues and local community practices.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential.
- Excellent Office Automation Skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Social Media, and Google Tools.
- Excellent Record Keeping Skills/Filing & Document Management.
- Ability to adapt to changing situations.

Interested Applicants may obtain full job description and employment application form at the Brilliant Star office on Navy Hill or via email to Steven Beyer at principal@brilliantstar.org. Completed application forms and required documents may be submitted at the Brilliant Star office or via email at principal@brilliantstar.org. The Brilliant Star office can be reached for inquires at (670) 323-7827

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Completed Brilliant Star Employment Application form
2. Cover Letter and Resume
3. Copy of Diploma

Other documents may be requested and must be submitted to be considered for this position. Your

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D&W Saipan, Inc. The lists of officers for D&W Saipan, Inc are Hong Sup Iee, Sung Moon Cho, President/Vice President and Sung Soo Lim, as Director/Corporate Secretary.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of General Automotive Products, General Merchandise, food and fuel products.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, March 18, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannåna'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñiha para u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattidå intirisao gi halum hinirårt pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 090 D 01 ni kunsissisti kåsi 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi hålum Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian pättin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website i www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee sa i D&W Saipan, Inc. I listan nu ufisiåt siha para i D&W Saipan, Inc sa si Hong Sup Lee, Sung Moon Cho, Presidenti/Sigundu Presidenti, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Direktot/Sekritåriun i Corporate.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni as Siñot Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu i binendi yan sitbisiun nu "General Automotive Products, General Merchandise", nengkanu' yan produktun i "fuel" siha.

I tema nu i maproponi na kontråtan atkilon sa' bentisingku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi durântin teman kontråtan i' atkilon mapega gi put sientus nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i aplikåo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, giya Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Matso 18, 2022 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re isiisiwow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap Ilól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng Ilól Marianas. Schóó kka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong kkapas, "data", "views", ngáre angiingil eew ppwomwol atkkiloonol faluweer toulap.

i. Ppwomwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálló bwe Lot 090 D 01 e lo bwe 3,000 reel "square meters", elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól "website" me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Ppwomwol schóól atkkilóón nge D&W Saipan, Inc. List-al "officers" ngáli D&W Saipan, Inc nge Hong Sup Iee, Sung Moon Cho, bwe "President/Vice President" me Sung Soo Lim, bwe "Director/Corporate Secretary".

iii. Ppwomwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóónol ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl akkaméélól me angaangil "General Automotive Products", "General Merchandise" mwonggo me "fuel products".

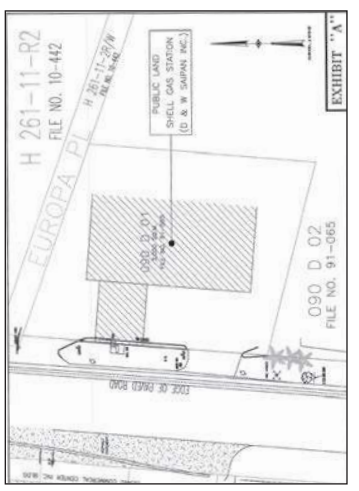
Kkapasal ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Ppwomwol atkkilóón ghal ráágh atol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw e bwal schuulong "application percentage of Business Gross Receipts" Ilól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel JoetenDandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre1st floor me PM Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappid yeel "online" me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwomw ikka e lo bwe "alternative" ppwomwol ngáli atkkiloonol falúw iye e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rebwe bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, "views", angiingi ngáre "alternate proposals" sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil Maailap 18, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ikka e lo wóól Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



MCS opens early bird registration

Mount Carmel School recently announced the school has opened registration for its "Early Bird Special" for the 2022-2023 school year. The early bird special provides a variety of discounts for families looking to secure their child's enrollment for the upcoming school year.

The annual early bird registration discount is as follows: For grades K4-K5 registration is $75 per student, which is normally $100. For students in grades first through 12th, the registration fee is $200 per student, which is normally $400. The deadline for the Early Bird registration and fees is scheduled for May 2, 2022.

Application forms for academic and extracurricular scholarships will be made available online on May 2, 2022, and will be announced on all of Mount Carmel School's media outlets. Students are required to be successfully enrolled for the next school year in order to apply for scholarships and financial aid. The total award for each scholarship or financial aid recipient is $750.

The school will also continue discounts for families that enroll more than one child. Families with two children can avail of a $600 discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a $1,000 discount for the third child, and families with four children can avail of a $1,500 discount for the fourth child.

Additionally, the school's Leadership Team will be exploring ways to expand scholarship funding and financial aid. This may include earmarking a portion of all Education Tax Credit revenue toward the school's scholarship and financial aid program.

"Our Early Bird Special is dedicated to providing our families with as many opportunities to save money and secure their children's seats for next school year," said Mount Carmel School interim president Frances Taimanao. "In addition to our academic and extracurricular scholarships, our team at MCS is continuously working hard to establish new means of providing more financial aid opportunities for its students."

To learn more about enrolling at Mount Carmel School for the upcoming SY 2022-2023 school year, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.nmijudiciary.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKER
Announcement # JVA22-021
SAIPAN

DUTIES: The position is under the general supervision of Director of Courts and the direct supervision of the Building Superintendent or his/her designee. The employee in this class performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Repairs and/or replaces doors, window panes, bathroom accessories, toilet hinges, and other building items;
- Repairs and/or replaces cement floors, tiles, asphalt tubs foundations, etc.;
- Repairs and/or replaces electrical fixtures, appliance fuses, drop cards and switches;
- Repairs and/or replaces broken pipes, gaskets, washers, faucets and toilet fixtures;
- Repairs and/or replaces damages to building and other structures caused by fungus and algae, termites, etc.
- Conducts routine inspections of premises and equipment;
- Works with designated community service workers from Office of Adult Probation Supervision and Drug Court Division;
- Monitors generator usage and maintenance;
- Operates and maintains various machinery, tools, and equipment for repair and maintenance work, including but not limited to pressure washer, brush cutter, etc.;
- Mows and trims the grass and other vegetation at Judiciary facilities;
- Collects and removes trash or debris at Judiciary facilities;
- Moves and stores office equipment and machinery;
- Installs, builds, or organizes cabinets, shelves, and other office furniture or fixtures;
- Operates trailer vehicles and related landscaping equipment;
- Fills and completes daily work or project summary sheets;
- Attends meetings regarding facility upgrade and repairs;
- Maintains inventory and general maintenance history of equipment and tools;
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Building and Grounds Maintenance Worker should have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in building maintenance or related field of study.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary range will be $21,000 - $25,000.00 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Cell. (670) 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.com

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

Nation

‘Scum of the earth’

NEW YORK (AP)—Angry, defiant and sometimes tearful, more than two dozen Americans whose lives were upended by the opioid crisis finally had their long-awaited chance Thursday to confront in court some members of the family they blame for fueling it.

They were unsparing as they unleashed decades of frustration and sorrow on members of the Sackler family who own OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma over the course of a three-hour virtual hearing.

One woman played a recording from when she called 911 to get help for her overdosing son, then called one of the Sacklers the “scum of the earth.” Several displayed pictures of loved ones who died too soon because of their addictions. Many spoke about forgiveness, with some trying to find it—and others definitely not.

“I hope that every single victim’s face haunts your every waking moment and your sleeping ones, too,” said Ryan Hampton, of Las Vegas, who has been in recovery for seven years after an addiction that began with an OxyContin prescription to treat knee pain led to overdoses and periods of homelessness.

“You poisoned our lives and had the audacity to blame us for dying,” he said. “I hope you hear our names in your dreams. I hope you hear the screams of the families who find their loved ones dead on the bathroom floor. I hope you hear the sirens. I hope you hear the heart monitor as it beats along with a failing pulse.”

The unusual hearing was conducted virtually in U.S. Bankruptcy Court at the suggestion of a mediator who helped broker a deal that could settle thousands of lawsuits against Purdue over the toll of opioids, generating billions for the fight against the addiction and overdose crisis and giving Sackler family members protection from lawsuits.

Appearing via audio was Richard Sackler, the former Purdue president and board chair who has said the company and family bear no responsibility for the opioid crisis; he is a son of Raymond Sackler, one of the three brothers who in the 1950s bought the company that became Purdue Pharma. Attending on video were Theresa Sackler, a British dame and wife of the late Mortimer D. Sackler, another of the brothers; and David Sackler, Richard Sackler’s son.

Theresa’s and David’s expressions remained largely neutral as people spoke on video about the pain of losing children after years of trying to get them adequate treatment, about their own journeys through addiction, and about caring for babies born into withdrawal and screaming in pain.

Under court rules, the Sacklers were not allowed to respond to the victims, who were selected by lawyers for creditors in the case. Some victims spoke from a law office in New York; others were at their homes or offices around the country.

Jannette Adams told of her late husband, Dr. Thomas Adams, who was a physician and church deacon in Mississippi and a missionary in Africa and Haiti. He became addicted to opioids after pharmaceutical representatives pitched them, she said. After a terrible decline, he died in 2015.

“I’m angry, I’m pissed, but I move on,” Adams said. “Because our society lost a person who could have made so many more contributions. ... You took so much from us, but we plan to, through our faith in God, move forward.”

Kristy Nelson played for the Sacklers a tense recording of a 911 call in which she summoned police to her home the day her son Bryan died of an opioid overdose. The dispatcher asked whether his skin had gone blue; she said it was white. She said she replays the call in her mind daily.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Man stabs 2 workers at New York’s MoMA and flees

NEW YORK (AP)—A man stabbed two employees multiple times inside the Museum of Modern Art in New York on Saturday afternoon, leaping over a reception desk to attack them after he was denied entrance for previous incidents of disorderly conduct, authorities said. Police said the victims, a 24-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman, were in stable condition at Bellevue Hospital later Saturday. Their names weren’t immediately released. People posted on social media that museumgoers ran for the exits in confusion and chaos after the stabbing. John Miller, NYPD deputy commissioner of intelligence and counterterrorism, said the man’s membership had been revoked for two separate incidents of disorderly behavior at the museum in recent days. A letter informing the suspect of his expired membership had been sent out Friday, but he came to the museum Saturday saying he intended to see a film there, Miller said.

Late winter storm blasts South, Northeast with snow and wind

A late winter storm blasted the northeastern United States on Saturday with high winds and snow that could pile up to a foot high, sending temperatures plummeting and making travel hazardous after first taking aim at the Deep South. The National Weather Service said 7 to 12 inches (18 to 30 centimeters) could be expected in northern areas of Pennsylvania and New York with winds gusting as high as 45 mph (72 kph). Philadelphia residents, while expecting only a few inches of snow, were warned that blizzard-like conditions were possible at one point, and later a flash freeze was possible with wet surfaces rapidly becoming icy due to plummeting temperatures. Gale warnings were in effect in coastal New Jersey and Delaware areas, with gusts of 40 to 50 mph (65 kph to 95 kph) possible and forecasters warning of tree damage and resulting power outages as well as rough boating conditions. A wind advisory was in effect for other areas. ***(AP)***

Man wanted after child’s body found in California home

MERCED, Calif. (AP)—A manhunt was under way Saturday for a man wanted in the death of a child whose body was found inside a central California home during the search for a missing 8-year-old girl. The body was discovered at a home in Merced on Friday, several days after relatives of Sophia Mason told police in the San Francisco Bay Area city of Hayward that they had not had contact with the girl since December, and that she was known to stay at different locations between Hayward and Southern California. The missing person report led Hayward police to arrest the girl’s mother, Samantha Johnson, 30, on a warrant stemming from a case of child abuse in Alameda County last year, the Merced police department said in a statement Saturday. Her statements led police to serve a search warrant at the house in Merced, where her 34-year-old boyfriend Dhante Jackson resides, the statement said.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Russians strike near Kyiv, block aid convoy; port city reels

MARIUPOL, Ukraine (AP)—Russia bombarded cities across Ukraine on Saturday, pounding Mariupol in the south, shelling the outskirts of the capital, Kyiv, and thwarting the efforts of people trying to flee the violence. In Mariupol, which has endured some of the worst punishment since Russia invaded, efforts to bring food, water and medicine into the port city of 430,000 and to evacuate civilians, were prevented by unceasing attacks. More than 1,500 people have died in Mariupol during the siege, according to the mayor’s office, and the shelling has even interrupted efforts to bury the dead in mass graves. Talks aimed at reaching a cease-fire again failed Saturday, and while the U.S. announced plans to provide another $200 million to Ukraine for weapons, a senior Russian diplomat warned that Moscow could attack foreign shipments of military equipment.

Cashless and flightless, Russian tourists stuck in Thailand

BANGKOK (AP)—Thousands of Russian tourists are stranded in Thailand’s beach resorts because of the war in Ukraine, many unable to pay their bills or return home because of sanctions and canceled flights. The crisis in Europe also put a crimp in recovery plans for the Southeast Asian nation’s tourism industry, which has hosted more visitors from Russia than any of its neighbors before the pandemic hit. There are about 6,500 Russian tourists stuck in Phuket, Surat Thani, Krabi and Pattaya, four provinces that are popular seaside resort destinations, in addition to 1,000 Ukrainians, Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, told The Associated Press on Friday.

In Celebration of Her New Life
†Carmen
Celis Lizama
Better known as “Ami”
Date of Birth: October 30, 1947
Date of Death: March 07, 2022
In her new life, she now joins:
Husband: Juan P. Lizama
Son: Jeffrey C. Lizama
Daughter: Maria Elizabeth C. Lizama
Father: Obed Celis
Mother: Francisca S. Celis
Brothers: Roque S. Celis, Abel S. Celis, Mariano S. Celis
Sister: Dolores S. Celis
Gradgrand: Obed John Lizama, Baby Sky A. Lizama, Hazel Ngeskebei
Mother-in-Law: Mariana Guerrero Palacios
Father-in-Law: Jose Crisostimo Lizama
Reared son: Paul Anthony Celis
Carmen’s loving memories will forever be in the hearts and treasured by:
Henry Lizama & Liezel Aldan and family
†Maria Lizama &Glenn Schardt and family
Juan Lizama and family
Jose C. & Sylvia Lizama and family
Anthony “Bu” Lizama and family
Tricia Lizama and family
Jessica Lizama & Henry Palacios and family
Reared Children:
Joseph Celis and family
Janice Celis and family
Jerome Delos Santos and family
Jonathan Delos Santos and family
Special Friend: Dwayne Henry
Sisters and Brothers:
Rosalina & †Frank Mesa and family
†Roque S. & Remedio Celis and family
Maria & Joaquin Delos Santos and family
Bernadita C. & †Martin San Nicolas and family
Dolores Celis & †Joseph San Nicolas and family
†Abel Celis & †Flora Selbart and family
†Mariano & Karen Celis and family
Frank (Agaton) & Judylyn Celis and family
Ignacio & Lyn Celis and family
Brothers & Sisters-in-Law
Pedro Lizama and family
†Remedio Nakatsukasa and family
Alberto Lizama and family
Roman Lizama and family
Emiliana Gacayan and family
Magdalena Lizama and family
Daily mass is being offered at 6:00pm at the St. Jude Church. On Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:30am, her remains will be escorted from the CHCC Chapel to Mount Carmel Church. Responso will commence upon arrival, followed by viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:20am, followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu’us Ma’ase
The Family

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Why should newborns get a vitamin K shot?

By DR. IVAN L. HAND
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Q: I have heard that when my baby is born, she should get a vitamin K shot. Why?

A: There's a lot going on when your baby is born. They're weighed and measured. Their noses are suctioned out and their vital signs are tested. They may have ointment or drops put in their eyes. They get a complete checkup by a pediatrician.

Most newborns get their first hepatitis B vaccine in the hospital, and they also routinely get a vitamin K shot.

Vitamin K is a fat-soluble nutrient that helps our bodies make blood clots. We need blot clots to stop bleeding. Vitamin K is important for keeping bones healthy, too.

Adults and older children get vitamin K from food such as green, leafy vegetables, meat, dairy and eggs. The healthy bacteria in our intestines, which make up our microbiome, also produce some vitamin K.

Babies, though, have very little vitamin K in their bodies at birth. This puts them at risk for bleeding. Fortunately, it's easy to prevent vitamin K deficiency bleeding with a vitamin K shot. The injection is given in your baby's thigh within six hours of birth.

Babies need vitamin K because they don't get much from the mother during pregnancy. Unlike many other nutrients, vitamin K doesn't pass through the placenta very easily. Babies' intestines don't have very many bacteria yet, so their bodies can't make enough vitamin K.

Newborns who don't get a vitamin K shot and are low on this vitamin are at risk of vitamin K deficiency bleeding.

REAMSTIME/TNS

Most newborns get their first hepatitis B vaccine in the hospital, and they also routinely get a vitamin K shot.

This happens when a baby's blood can't make clots, and their body can't stop bleeding.

The bleeding can happen on the outside of the body. It can also happen internally. A baby could be bleeding into their intestines or brain before their parents know anything is wrong. Brain bleeding happens in about half of all babies who develop this vitamin deficiency bleeding, and it can lead to brain damage or death.

There are three types of vitamin K deficiency bleeding:

■ Early-onset: This begins within the first 24 hours after birth. It usually happens when the mother is taking certain medications that interfere with vitamin K.

■ Classical: This happens between two days and one week after birth. Doctors don't know exactly what causes most of these cases. Early-onset and classical vitamin k deficiency bleeding occur in 1 in 60 to 1 in 250 newborns.

■ Late-onset: This happens between one week and six months after birth. It's rarer than early-onset or classical vitamin k deficiency bleeding, occurring in 1 in 14,000 to 1 in 25,000 babies. Infants who didn't get a vitamin K shot at birth are 81 times more likely to develop late-onset deficiency bleeding than babies who do get the shot.

Cases of this deficiency bleeding seem to be increasing. This is partly because more parents are refusing the vitamin K shot for their newborns. This deficiency bleeding is fairly rare, so many parents aren't aware of how dangerous the effects of this disease can be.

Vitamin K shots are very safe. The vitamin K from the injection is stored in your baby's liver and released slowly over months. This gives your baby the vitamin K they need until they can start getting it from solid food and making it themselves.

You may have heard about a study from the 1990s about a possible link between the vitamin K shot and developing childhood cancer. This didn't only worry parents; doctors and scientists were concerned too. Since then, experts have done many different kinds of studies to verify this link. None of the studies have ever been able to find that link again.

Some parents may ask for oral vitamin K instead of the shot. But babies can't absorb the oral form very well, so it doesn't work well to prevent this deficiency bleeding. A vitamin K shot is the safest and best option for all newborns.

Breast milk does give your baby a little bit of vitamin K. But it's not enough to prevent this bleeding. Babies who are exclusively breastfed are at higher risk of developing this bleeding because their vitamin K levels are low.

This all changes when your baby is old enough to start

How to deal with anxiety, stress when the world feels overwhelming

By DEB BALZER
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Anxieties are heightened around the world as Russia continues its attacks on Ukraine. Those who continuously monitor the European situation, as well as the ongoing political strife in the U.S. and the global pandemic, can feel anxious or in despair.

"We've been hit by COVID-19 for two years, and we're already beaten down and exhausted," says Dr. Robert Bright, a Mayo Clinic psychiatrist. "Now with this terrible war in Europe—that's just overwhelming. We need to really reach out to the people we love and who we care about and support them and get their support during this time."

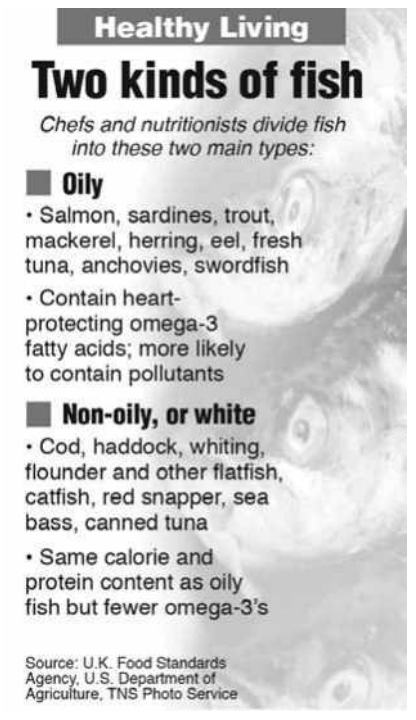
While it's important to stay informed, Dr. Bright recommends limiting exposure to the media.

"We need to know what's going on, but I think obsessively watching it all 16 hours of the day that you're up and going over and over it, it is not going to change it. It's going to have a negative toll on your mental health."

Dr. Bright recommends finding ways to help that are meaningful to you. Connect with other like-minded people, reach out and talk to friends and neighbors, help through humanitarian efforts and focus on the things that you can control. Attend to self-care by getting enough sleep, eating a healthy diet, practicing gratitude. There are some excellent online sites and smartphone apps for guided mindfulness-based meditation to help focus on the present moment, quiet the mind and reduce stress.

"Let the people you trust know if you are struggling and seek professional counseling or consultation if depression and anxiety are overwhelming you," he says. "It is not a sign of weakness to need help when things are overwhelming."

Dr. Bright adds, "It can be really helpful to seek out help from a professional at times, and to be able to recognize when in fact you are really struggling."


Healthy Living
Two kinds of fish
Chefs and nutritionists divide fish into these two main types:
Oily
• Salmon, sardines, trout, mackerel, herring, eel, fresh tuna, anchovies, swordfish
• Contain heart-protecting omega-3 fatty acids; more likely to contain pollutants
Non-oily, or white
• Cod, haddock, whiting, flounder and other flatfish, catfish, red snapper, sea bass, canned tuna
• Same calorie and protein content as oily fish but fewer omega-3's
Source: U.K. Food Standards Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, TNS Photo Service

ON NUTRITION Vitamin C revisited

By BARBARA INTERMILL
MONTEREY HERALD

Experts at the Linus Pauling Institute sponsored an extremely interesting presentation of vitamin C this week. You may remember Dr. Pauling, a brilliant and sometimes controversial chemist who published numerous books and articles on the role of vitamin C and other nutrients in human health. The institute at Oregon State University that bears his name continues to carry out this type of research.

The webinar opened my eyes to a whole new area of investigation, however. Instead of discussing vitamin C and the common cold, researchers Dr. Jeanne Drisko and Qi Chen, Ph.D., from the University of Kansas are now studying the use of vitamin C infusions to treat certain diseases, including cancer.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Researchers are now studying the use of vitamin C infusions to treat certain diseases, including cancer.

As wild as it may sound, these experts are finding evidence that giving large doses of vitamin C intravenously (into the veins) makes the vitamin work as a drug, not a nutrient. This approach, though still in its infancy, is showing some encouraging results in the treatment of some health conditions. Stay tuned as we learn more about this from larger clinical trials.

Vitamin C is still extremely important as a nutrient, however. So much so that I gleaned this information from this Institute's 100 Questions about Vitamin C:

Do we get enough vitamin C in our diets to keep our immune system healthy?

Maybe not. The experts recommend a daily multivitamin supplement that contains vitamin C in addition to a diet high in fruits and vegetables, especially those rich in vitamin C such as kiwi, citrus fruit and bell peppers.

Is it better to take natural or synthetic forms of vitamin C?

Both forms are chemically the same and our bodies do not distinguish any difference between them. Claims that "natural vitamin C" is better are not supported by science.

In addition, vitamin C supplements are better absorbed if taken in smaller doses. Two-hundred milligrams is absorbed better than 500 milligrams, for example. And don't waste your money on sustained release vitamin C supplements. They appear to be less absorbed than other forms.

How do we find the best brand of supplements?

Good question, since vitamin manufacturers are not required to prove their products contain the exact amount of ingredients listed on the label. Look for products that display "NSF" or "USP" logos. These have been tested for potency and purity.

What about vitamin C supplements and kidney stones?

If you have a history of calcium oxalate kidney stones, vitamin C supplements may not be a good idea. And especially don't exceed 500 milligrams of supplemental vitamin C per day.

By the way, research has shown that the regular use of vitamin C supplements can shorten the duration of a cold, but they do not reduce your risk for getting sick in the first place. And interestingly, there are no proven benefits for taking extra supplements once cold symptoms have already begun. Find more information at https://lpi.oregonstate.edu.

Life & Style

Jussie Smollett sentenced to 150 days in jail in fake attack

CHICAGO (AP)—A judge sentenced Jussie Smollett to 150 days in jail Thursday, branding the Black and gay actor a narcissistic charlatan for staging a hate crime against himself to grab the limelight while the nation struggled with wrenching issues of racial injustice. Smollett responded by defiantly maintaining his innocence and suggesting he could be killed in jail.

The sentence and Smollett's post-hearing outburst capped an hourslong hearing and more than three years of legal drama following Smollett's claim that he had been the target of a racist and homophobic attack.

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE VIA AP, POOL

Actor Jussie Smollett appears with his attorneys at his sentencing hearing at the Leighton Criminal Court Building, Thursday, March 10, 2022, in Chicago.

Smollett didn't make a statement when offered the opportunity before the judge announced the sentence, saying he was listening to his attorneys' advice. But after Cook County Judge James Linn issued his decision, Smollett removed the face mask he wore throughout the hearing to proclaim himself innocent.

"If I did this, then it means that I stuck my fist in the fears of Black Americans in this country for over 400 years and the fears of the LGBT community," Smollett said, standing up at the defense table as his lawyers and sheriff's deputies surrounded him. "Your Honor, I respect you and I respect the jury but I did not do this. And I am not suicidal. And if anything happens to me when I go in there, I did not do it to myself. And you must all know that."

As deputies led him from the courtroom, Smollett shouted out again.

"I am innocent," he yelled, raising his fist. "I could have said I am guilty a long time ago."

The judge sentenced Smollett to 30 months of felony probation, with 150 days served in Cook County Jail, and ordered that he pay $120,106 in restitution to the city of Chicago and a $25,000 fine.

Special prosecutor Dan Webb asked Linn to include "an appropriate amount of prison time" when sentencing the actor for his conviction on five counts of disorderly conduct.

"His conduct denigrated hate crimes," Webb said after the hearing. "His conduct will discourage others who are victims of hate crimes from coming forward and reporting those crimes to law enforcement."

Smollett's attorneys wanted the judge to limit the sentence to community service, arguing that he had already been punished by the criminal justice system and damage to his career.

Family members echoed those comments.

"I ask you, judge, not to send him to prison," his grandmother, 92-year-old Molly Smollett, told the court. She later added, "If you do, send me along with him, OK?"

Smollett's attorneys also read aloud letters from other supporters, including the president of the NAACP, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and actors LaTanya and Samuel L. Jackson that asked Linn to consider the case's effect on Smollett's life and career.

'Black Panther' director mistaken for bank robber in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—Movie director Ryan Coogler was briefly handcuffed by Atlanta police after he was mistaken for a robber when he passed a teller a note while trying to withdraw a large amount of cash from his account, police said.

The "Black Panther" director, who is Black, walked into a Bank of America branch Jan. 7 and passed the teller a withdrawal slip with a note written on the back asking her to "be discreet when handing him the cash," according to a police report.

He was trying to withdraw more than $10,000, and the teller "received an alert notification" on her computer and quickly alerted her manager that Coogler was trying to rob the bank, the report says. The bank employee is a Black woman, the report says.

Police responding to the bank branch in the upscale Buckhead neighborhood saw a black Lexus SUV parked out front with the engine running. An officer talked to the male driver who said he was waiting for Coogler, who was inside the bank. A female passenger gave police the same information.

A description of Coogler given by the driver matched the description of the man reported to have been trying to rob the bank, the report says. The officer detained both the driver and passenger in the back of a police vehicle but they were not placed in handcuffs.

Two other officers had gone inside the bank and led Coogler out in handcuffs.

Body camera video released by police shows officers approaching Coogler from behind as he stands at the counter wearing a light gray hooded sweatshirt, a black cap, sunglass and a white mask. As an officer pulls his gun and another tells him to put his hands behind his back, Coogler says, "Whoa, whoa, what's going on?"

ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT VIA AP

A police officer detains "Black Panther" director Ryan Coogler at a Bank of America branch in Atlanta, in this January 2022 image made from Atlanta Police video.

As he's led from the bank, Coogler tells them he's just trying to pull money out of his own account.

Police determined the whole thing was a mistake by the teller and Coogler "was never in the wrong," the report says The handcuffs were immediately removed and the other two people were released from the back of the patrol vehicle.

Police can be seen on body camera video explaining to Coogler that they were responding to a call of a bank robbery and had to take appropriate precautions. Still sitting in the back of the police SUV, Coogler is seen on video looking down and shaking his head as the officer explains.

Florida's DeSantis, Disney butt heads over LGBTQ school bill

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Walt Disney Co. is suspending its political donations in Florida after the company's CEO received huge blowback for not using Disney's vast influence in the state to try to quash a recently passed Republican bill that would prevent teachers from instructing early grades on LGBTQ issues.

The bill has sparked a spat between Florida's tourism giant and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who accused the company of being friendly with communist China.

Disney CEO Bob Chapek on Friday afternoon posted a statement online and sent an email to employees saying the company was wrong to stay silent on the issue before the Republican-dominated Legislature passed what opponents have dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" bill.

Republican lawmakers had argued that parents, not teachers, should be the ones talking to their children about gender issues during their early formative years. The bill bars instruction on "sexual orientation or gender identity" in kindergarten through grade 3.

DeSantis, who indicated support for the measure, is now facing calls to veto it during the two weeks he has to do so, but is pushing back against the pressure.

Chapek said the bill was a challenge to human rights and apologized for not acting sooner. Meanwhile, DeSantis sent a campaign fundraising email that said, "Disney is in far too deep with the Communist Party of China and has lost any moral authority to tell you what to do."

Wife's abuse of medicine imperils a family in pain

DEAR ABBY: I am on hydrocodone for my back pain, and my wife keeps taking my medication because she says her back hurts. I have threatened to leave her, turn her in to the police and tell our children. She quits stealing the meds for a while and then starts up again. What can I do? Should I turn her in to the police or what?

IN PAIN IN INDIANA

DEAR IN PAIN: Do not turn your wife in to the police. Take control of your medications and keep them somewhere she can't pilfer them until you no longer need them. Inform your doctor that your wife has been stealing your pain meds and appears to have developed an addiction. If she hasn't already, she should have a doctor diagnose and treat her back pain separately from yours.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: An adopted family member tragically lost a close member of her biological family a while ago. Her grief has been intense, and she continues to air it on social media. The rest of us have been drenched in her tears long enough. She needs to get on with her life, which includes a husband, two kids and an adoptive family that has loved and supported her through her time of grief. What would be a kind and tactful way to let her know she has overstayed her time on the pity potty?

ENOUGH ALREADY IN MONTANA

DEAR ENOUGH ALREADY: NO! Please don't do that. Everyone grieves differently. Some heal quickly; others never get over their loss. Because you can no longer cope with the poor woman's grief, quit reading her posts. The most helpful thing you could offer her would be to suggest she ask her doctor or her spiritual adviser about the various grief support groups in her area.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: When I met my boyfriend several years ago, he had a long mohawk nearly reaching his shoulders. He likes having long hair, and frankly, it suits him. However, during the last couple of years he has taken the pandemic as license to let it grow as long as it can get. His hair now reaches more than halfway down his back.

The issue is that my grandmother recently passed away. She was a devout Catholic, and I'm worried my boyfriend's hair won't be appropriate for the funeral. I don't want to hurt his feelings, but the thought of him looking so unruly at the service really bothers me. I'm thinking about asking him to cut it to collar length, but I don't want to overstep since it's his hair. Should I say something or let it go?

GROOMED IN THE EAST

DEAR GROOMED: Do not ask your boyfriend to cut a foot off his hair for the funeral. Suggest instead that he wear it slicked back into a ponytail or a man bun. I have seen young men similarly coiffed, and it looks fine.

DEAR ABBY

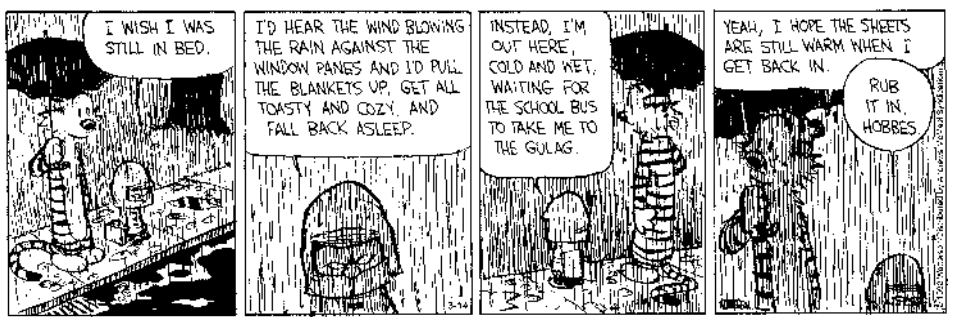
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I WISH I WAS STILL IN BED.
I'D HEAR THE WIND BLOWING THE RAIN AGAINST THE WINDOW PANES AND I'D PULL THE BLANKETS UP, GET ALL TOASTY AND COZY, AND FALL BACK ASLEEP.
INSTEAD, I'M OUT HERE, COLD AND WET, WAITING FOR THE SCHOOL BUS TO TAKE ME TO THE GULAG.
YEAH, I HOPE THE SHEETS ARE STILL WARM WHEN I GET BACK IN.
RUB IT IN, HOBBES

Garfield®

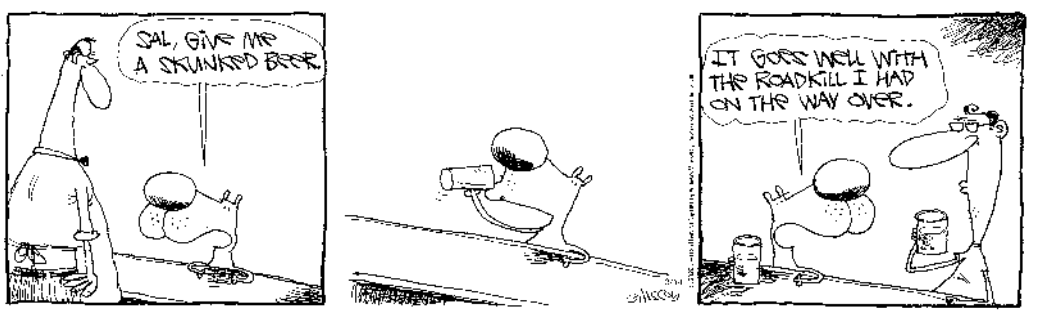
By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

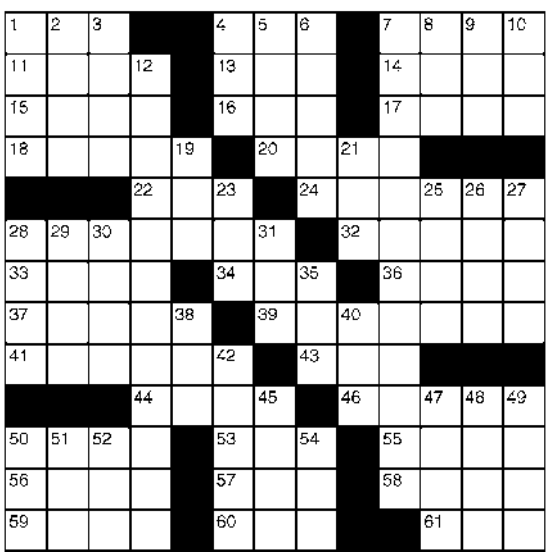
ACROSS
1 Paint container
4 Flow out
7 Ritzy
11 Per person
13 Kilmer of "The Doors"
14 "— la Douce"
15 Jeans-maker Strauss
16 "What — you doing?"
17 Subject, usually
18 Battle line
20 Toucan's feature
22 White wine cocktail
24 Delta force?
28 Social groups
32 TV, radio, etc.
33 Cruising
34 Expert
36 Chinese dynasty
37 Transmits
39 "Miss Saigon" star Lea
41 Preparing to drive, in golf
43 Saw-buck
44 Folk tales
46 Trans-parent fabric
50 Shopping complex
53 Ballpark figure
55 Sketched
56 Director Kazan
57 Fragrant tree
58 Green land
59 Body powder
60 Saute
61 "May-day!"

DOWN
1 Young cow
2 Unoriginal one
3 De — (from the start)
4 Perón of Argentina
5 Biting remark
6 Censor
7 Colorful drink
8 Spanish gold
9 Dallas sch.
10 Solo in space
12 1984 Bruce Spring-steen song
19 Up to
21 Goal
23 Agent
25 Thor's father
26 Small bell sound
27 Long story
28 Group of actors
29 "Under-stood"
30 Thinker Des-cartes
31 Many coll. appli-cants
35 Feedbag tidbit
38 — -Cat
40 Pants part
42 Churlish
45 Eastern bigwig
47 "Topaz" author
48 Goose egg
49 Woolly moms
50 Ran into
51 — carte
52 Like Abner or Wayne
54 Snoop

Solution time: 21 mins.

■	H	A	T	I	■	L	O	R	N	A	■	
B	O	I	L	E	D	■	A	T	H	E	N	A
L	O	R	E	N	A	■	S	T	O	W	E	D
A	P	B	■	C	R	A	C	O	■	C	M	A
S	L	A	B	■	E	V	A	■	P	A	I	R
S	A	G	A	N	■	A	L	S	O	■	R	A	N
■	■	■	L	E	A	■	A	I	L	■	■	■
C	A	R	M	E	L	A	■	B	E	T	A	S
C	T	I	S	■	B	L	T	■	S	I	K	H
S	T	A	■	C	A	B	O	T	■	N	I	E
M	I	L	T	O	N	■	P	I	C	K	M	E
C	C	T	O	P	I	■	I	N	D	E	G	T
■	S	O	N	V	A	■	C	A	I	R	O	■

Last Friday's Answer 03/14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Simone Biles, 25; Megan Follows, 54; Billy Crystal, 74; Quincy Jones, 89.

Happy Birthday: Keep your thoughts and feelings to yourself until you have a foolproof plan in place. Make changes based on facts, a reasonable budget and peace of mind. Be sure to cover any legal or red-tape issues before executing your plans. Being responsible can help you bring your dreams to fruition. Trust your instincts, and follow your heart. Your numbers are 7, 12, 20, 28, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* It's what you do that matters. Step up and act on your behalf. It's up to you to make things happen. Force issues that are pending, and you'll make a statement that will cause others to take notice. Don't hide; take charge. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Completion is the gateway to freedom. Work diligently to finish what you start before you share with others. Talk is cheap if you don't have everything in place or your promises fulfilled. Don't let mixed emotions get in the way of business. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* A physical change will draw positive attention from those who count. When asked to pitch in and help, rely on facts, not hearsay. Your time is valuable and, if appropriately earmarked, can make a difference to a situation that concerns you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be prompt and practical when taking care of money matters, shared expenses or contractual concerns. There is no use getting upset or over-reacting when a couple of adjustments will solve issues without emotional overspill. Composure will pay off. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Sit tight and observe. Don't initiate unnecessary change. Stay calm, consider your options, and share your intentions and feelings with someone you trust and love. Put your time and energy into educational pursuits, updating your skills and creating a brighter future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Focus on comfort and initiating something that boosts your morale. A pick-me-up that enriches your life or gives you a trendy look is favored. Choose to do something that expands your outlook and encourages networking. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take the high road. Avoid joint ventures. Put your talents to work for you, not helping someone else excel. It's your turn to flourish, so buckle down and do whatever it takes to position yourself for success. Physical fitness is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take the path less traveled. Let your inner spirit guide you and your creative soul to pursue something meaningful. Refuse to let petty interference ruin your plans or tamper with your temperament. Be positive; good things will transpire. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* How you handle money and people matter. Refuse to let anyone step in and take over when it's up to you to take charge and look out for your best interest. Concentrate on fitness and a less stressful lifestyle. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Deal with domestic issues and implement the changes that make life easier. Taking a unique approach to budgeting and earning a living will allow you to incorporate more pastimes into your routine that bring you joy. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't get all worked up without reason. Know enough to walk away if you don't want to do something. Put your energy where it counts, and strive to be the best you can. Don't take risks with your health. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Listen to what others say, and keep your intentions to yourself. Gather information that will help you summarize what's possible. Put together a plan that will grow over time. A steady pace and hard work will lead to positive changes. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kind, generous and forgiving. You are helpful and unique.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6			1		
		4	1	9	6	7	
		4	5			8	3
9	8	2				4	
	5			4		6	
	4				7	9	5
6	1				4	5	
	2	8	3	9	6		
		7			2		

Difficulty Level ★ 3/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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Last Friday's Answer

9	7	8	3	4	6	1	2	5
5	2	4	9	1	7	3	8	6
6	3	1	5	8	2	4	9	7
2	6	7	4	3	8	5	1	9
4	1	5	2	7	9	8	6	3
8	9	3	6	5	1	7	4	2
3	5	9	1	6	4	2	7	8
7	4	6	8	2	3	9	5	1
1	8	2	7	9	5	6	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BOYFRIEND PAJAMAS (FASHION) Solution: 8 letters

L	L	O	U	N	G	E	S	S	M	O	T	T	O	B
E	I	O	V	E	R	S	I	Z	E	D	S	I	L	U
N	N	G	N	S	E	L	P	U	O	C	T	E	A	T
N	E	O	H	G	K	N	I	T	X	C	R	S	D	T
A	N	O	S	T	S	L	R	A	L	L	O	C	O	O
L	S	B	D	S	W	L	L	I	H	C	H	Z	M	N
F	A	M	I	L	Y	E	E	E	N	E	S	A	Y	S
D	I	A	L	P	R	A	I	E	D	O	T	S	P	R
R	S	B	O	X	E	R	D	G	V	C	T	M	E	I
J	E	R	S	E	Y	S	N	I	H	E	O	T	S	J
T	T	S	O	C	T	E	O	I	L	T	F	U	O	A
R	S	O	U	L	V	N	N	C	S	O	P	C	C	C
I	N	F	P	O	O	G	I	U	S	I	H	K	K	K
H	F	G	W	S	R	C	C	R	M	I	P	O	S	E
S	P	O	C	K	E	T	N	A	P	E	V	O	L	T

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Bamboo, Bottoms, Boxer, Buttons, Chill, Collar, Colors, Cotton, Couples, Cozy, Cuffs, Custom, Dots, Family, Flannel, Holidays, Jacket, Jersey, Knit, Lightweight, Linens, Long Sleeve, Lounge, Love, Matching, Modal, Oversized, Pant, Plaid, Pocket, Pose, Print, Relax, Sets, Shirt, Shorts, Socks, Softer, Solids, Supima, Ties, Tops, Trouser, Tuck, Viscose, Woven

Last Friday's Answer: Grise Fiord

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Warriors beat Bucks, Klay Thompson has season-high 38 points

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Klay Thompson scored a season-best 38 points, raising his right arm in triumph to ignite the home crowd and leading the Golden State Warriors past the defending NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks, 122-109 on Saturday night.

Thompson had his second 30-point performance since returning Jan. 9 from a two-year absence following knee and Achilles surgeries.

Milwaukee native Jordan Poole returned to Golden State's starting lineup and scored 30 points with five 3-pointers to go with six rebounds and five assists.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points and eight rebounds, but the Warriors' defense held the rest of the Bucks down. Milwaukee had won six a row.

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson (11) shoots against Milwaukee Bucks center Bobby Portis Jr. during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Saturday, March 12, 2022.

Jazz 134, Kings 125

In Salt Lake City, Jordan Clarkson scored a career-high 45 points to overcome the absence of Rudy Gobert and Mike Conley and help Utah beat Sacramento.

Clarkson set a franchise record for points as a reserve with the first 40-point game for the Jazz since he had 41 last season on May 10 against Golden State. He has four games with more than 40 points off the bench.

Clarkson made seven 3s and made all eight shots from inside the arc and all eight free throws to help Utah rebound from a loss Friday night at San Antonio.

Three games after posting a career-best 44 points, De'Aaron Fox had 41 points and 11 assists for Sacramento.

Timberwolves 113, Heat 104

In Miami, Jaylen Nowell scored 16 points, Karl-Anthony Towns and Anthony Edwards each added 15 and Minnesota beat Miami.

The Timberwolves have won seven of eight games.

Tyler Herro scored 30 points for the Eastern Conference-leading Heat. They had 37 points in the second half after scoring 42 in the second quarter. Miami has lost two of three.

Miami's Markieff Morris had six points and four rebounds in 17 minutes off the bench in his first game in more than four months. He missed 58 games due to a whiplash injury suffered in a Nov. 8 scuffle with Denver's Nikola Jokic.

The Heat played without Jimmy Butler (toe irritation), Caleb Martin (knee), and Victor Oladipo (knee). Oladipo's absence was planned after he played in three games in a five-day span for his first games in nearly a year following surgery.

Raptors 125, Nuggets 115

In Denver, Pascal Siakam scored 33 points, Scottie Barnes had 25 and Toronto pulled away late to beat Denver.

Chris Boucher added 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors, and Barnes also had 10 assists and eight rebounds. They won their third in a row and improved to 5-5 since the All-Star break.

Nikola Jokic had 26 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Nuggets. Bones Hyland added 17 points, and Will Barton had 16 in his return from an ankle injury.

Bulls 101, Cavaliers 91

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points, Nikola Vucevic added 20 points and 14 rebounds and Chicago beat Cleveland.

Ayo Dosunmu made three 3-pointers and finished with 17 points for the Bulls, who came away with their second straight win after losing five in a row even though they were missing Zach LaVine. The two-time All-Star was sidelined because of lingering soreness in his left knee.

Darius Garland led Cleveland with 25 points.

Pacers 119, Spurs 108

In San Antonio, Tyrese Haliburton had 19 points and 10 assists and Indiana beat San Antonio to snap a three-game skid.

San Antonio sat Dejounte Murray, Keldon Johnson, and Jakob Poeltl a night after coach Gregg Popovich became the winningest coach in NBA history. The Spurs rallied to beat Utah 104-102 on Friday night, giving Popovich his 1,336th regular-season victory to break a tie with Don Nelson.

Spurs rookie center Jock Landale had a season-high 26 points.

Trail Blazers 127, Wizards 118

In Portland, Ore., Josh Hart scored a career-high 44 points and Portland beat Washington to snap a six-game losing streak.

Hart also had eight rebounds and six assists. Trendon Watford added 27 points and Drew Eubanks had 20, each also setting career highs.

Kentavious led Washington with 26 points.

Spurs' Gregg Popovich becomes NBA regular-season wins leader

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Gregg Popovich's name is on top of the NBA regular-season victory list. He thinks of it more as a group accomplishment.

"All of us share in this record," Popovich said Friday night after getting his record-breaking 1,336th victory when the San Antonio Spurs rallied to beat the Utah Jazz 104-102. "It's not mine. It's ours, here in the city."

Popovich broke a tie with Don Nelson, the friend and mentor he served as an assistant under while with Golden State for two seasons. The milestone came in Popovich's 2,030th game and 26th season with the Spurs, the only franchise for which he has served as head coach.

"It's just a testament to a whole lot of people," Popovich said. "Something like this does not belong to one individual. Basketball's a team sport. You preach to your players that they have to do it together and that's certainly been the case in my life with all the wonderful players and coaches, the staff that I've been blessed with, the support of this wonderful city. The fans support us no matter what."

Unsurprisingly, the evening was met with zero fanfare. That is, until the end — players mobbed the 73-year-old Popovich when the game was over, jumping around and hugging him until he could break free and headed to the locker room. Popovich was doused with a cooler of water and huge roars could be heard from the locker room as the Spurs celebrated along with Hall of Famer David Robinson.

"Tonight, he had to enjoy it," Spurs point guard Dejounte Murray said. "He had no option."

Praise or celebration of any achievement is typically brusquely deflected or simply ignored by Popovich. To hear Popovich explain it, he simply shows up to work and rolls the ball onto the court.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

He's the fourth coach, going back to the end of the NBA's first season, to stand atop the wins list. Red Auerbach held the mark for about a half-century, followed by Lenny Wilkens, followed by Nelson — and now, Popovich.

"The ironic thing about this is Nellie gave me a job when I didn't have one back in '92," Popovich said. "He took me on. To be in this position, as the same breath as him, is in my opinion undeserving and quite awkward because he was so wonderful in saving my family's (behind). So, it's ironic that I'm sitting here in this situation."

Popovich's first stint in San Antonio ended in 1992, working for Larry Brown — until the whole coaching staff got fired. That's when Popovich got a job as an assistant in Golden State, working for Nelson for two seasons. He returned to the Spurs in 1994 and took over as coach in 1996.

The Spurs released a video from Nelson after the game, congratulating Popovich — whom he called one of his best friends — and telling him how proud he is of his former assistant's accomplishments "and all the wonderful things you've done for basketball, worldwide."

"I'm so proud of you for doing it," Nelson said. "I couldn't wait for this day to happen."

Popovich has won five NBA championships and 13 division titles and was recently named one of the 15 greatest coaches in league history. He has coached NBA 75th Anniversary Team members Robinson and Tim Duncan, future Hall of Fame members Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker as well as journeymen who found careers in San Antonio such as Danny Green and current NBA coaches Steve Kerr, Monty Williams, Ime Udoka and Doc Rivers.

"Gregg Popovich's success with the Spurs is unprecedented in our league, so it's only fitting that he now holds the record for most career wins," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement.

"His leadership and unwavering commitment to the game are widely admired by generations of players and coaches alike. Congratulations to Coach Pop on this latest achievement in his legendary career."

San Antonio won 50 games for a league-record 18 straight seasons from 2000-2017 under Popovich. The Spurs matched a league record with 22 consecutive playoff appearances but have missed two straight postseasons since their streak ended in 2017.

While the glory days seem distant, Popovich continues plugging along.

Popovich joked that coaching Duncan, Parker and Ginobili had grown "boring" because they knew everything. The current roster is the antithesis of that.

"For what he's meant to the profession to so many people and to myself," said Utah coach Quin Snyder, who coached the Spurs' G League team from 2007-2010. "This is kind of the natural evolution of what it should be based on the integrity with which this program has won for so many years and him being the leader and personifying it."

This year's team is the youngest of Popovich's career. The Spurs have fully embraced a rebuild expedited by Kawhi Leonard's forced departure from San Antonio along with the retirement of the Big Three.

Murray, who has emerged as the team's newest star, had 27 points and nine rebounds to lead the Spurs past the Jazz. Murray made two free throws with 4.8 seconds and 1 of 2 with a second remaining to seal the victory.

"We did it for Pop," Murray said. "(We wanted Popovich to) really take this in and be grateful for it. This doesn't happen. It's rare. He deserves it. He's a great man. A great coach."

Murray's 17-footer tied it at 84 with 5:28 remaining to close an 18-3 run by the Spurs. Lonnie Walker IV made two of three free throws to put San Antonio up 96-95 for its first lead since Josh Richardson's 15-footer put them ahead 5-3 1:31 into the game.

Donovan Mitchell had 24 points for Utah, and Rudy Gobert added 13 points and 16 rebounds.

Former Spurs forward Rudy Gay pulled Utah to 103-102 on a 3-pointer with 1.0 seconds left.

"None of us coach for records," Popovich said. "We do it for wins like tonight."

United during negotiations, MLB players divided on deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball players maintained unity throughout labor negotiations, yet were divided when it came time to vote on the deal.

The eight-man executive subcommittee that appeared to be most involved in the nearly year-long talks voted 8-0 Thursday against approving the five-year contract. Team player representatives, the overall group supervising negotiations, voted 26-4 in favor, leaving the overall ballot at 26-12 for ratification.

"You call it a division, I call it a healthy dialogue and conversation," union head Tony Clark said Friday. "From our standpoint, the process worked. Each group and each team, each player, have had an opportunity to engage their team and and voice their particular vote against the backdrop of the other 25 members or 39 members, I guess I should say, of their club."

AP

Major League Baseball Players Association Executive Director Tony Clark, right, answers a question at a press conference in their offices, in New York, Friday, March 11, 2022.

MLB Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem and Clark signed a 182-page memorandum of understanding on Thursday incorporating 26 tentative agreements requiring revisions to the Basic Agreement and Major League Rules.

Training camps are opening ahead of a season that will start a week late on April 7 but still preserving a 162-game schedule.

Players on the exco, as it is referred to, are veterans for the most part at the top of the salary scale: Mets pitcher Max Scherzer ($43.3 million this season), Yankees pitchers Gerrit Cole ($36 million) and Zack Britton ($14 million), Texas infielder Marcus Semien ($25 million), Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor ($32 million), Houston catcher Jason Castro ($3.5 million) and free agent pitcher Andrew Miller ($12 million last year).

Britton, Cole, Paxton, Scherzer and Semien are represented by agent Scott Boras, the sport's most influential agent.

Among the 1,670 players who appeared on a major league roster this year, 1,145 earned under $1 million, including 771 below $500,000 and 241 under $100,000.

Those rank-and-file voices came through in the vote by the larger group of 38.

"The individual subcommittee members who were invested from start to finish, who were pushing to make the gains that we all wanted to make, they offered their vote against the backdrop of that democratic system," Clark said.

The committee differs demographically from the larger player group, with seven of the eight born in the 50 United States and Lindor from Puerto Rico. None were born in Latin American nations and none in Asia.

"Beyond the subcommittee and beyond the player reps, there are discussions with players who have issues or concerns that directly affect them. Those conversations have happened and those player reps and those executive subcommittee members listened as a part of those conversations," Clark said. "Suffice it to say, we've had more meetings than reported. There has been a lot of involvement and a lot of discussion. Every player, no matter where they are from, their concerns have been heard and will continue to be heard."

The agreement raises the luxury tax threshold from $210 million to $230 million this year and $244 million in 2026. The minimum salary goes up from $570,500 to $700,000 this year, with $20,000 annual increases, and a $50 million bonus pool is established for pre-arbitration players.

Teams will be put in a lottery for the top six picks in the amateur draft, and the top two players in Rookie of the Year voting will be credited with a year of major league service, even if in the majors for only a portion of that season.

MLB gained an expansion of the playoffs from 10 teams to 12 and the right to sell ads on uniforms and helmets.

"This was a long, hard labor fight against a powerful adversary committed to maintaining the status quo or making it worse for players," union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer said, accusing MLB of using "every pressure tactic in the book."

Half-century holdout over, DH comes to National League

PHOENIX (AP)—It was an impressive holdout for the National League, which made it nearly 50 years staving off a full-time designated hitter rule that the American League implemented before the 1973 season.

"We'll continue to play by baseball rules," NL President Chub Feeney famously said back then.

Well, the rules have finally changed.

Among the most noticeable switches in MLB for the 2022 season will be that all 30 teams will use the designated hitter, eliminating pitchers hitting and changing one of the long-standing different quirks between the two leagues.

No more Madison Bumgarner taking meaty cuts, no more Max Scherzer trying to end last year's 0-for-62 slump.

The extra hitter won't be a completely new concept in the NL: The league used the DH in the coronavirus-shortened season in 2020, in interleague games when visiting AL parks and in the postseason. There's also the reality that nearly every level of baseball — from high school to college to the minor leagues — usually uses the DH.

But the change is still substantial, and it means some parts of the game will almost certainly become endangered or vanish — think sacrifice bunting, double switches and a Bartolo Colon blast. On the positive side, it also could add a jolt of offense to a game that needs it. MLB teams combined for a .244 batting average last season, which was the sport's lowest mark since 1972 —- pitchers didn't help, combining to barely hit over .100.

There are certainly some pitchers upset that they don't get to swing the bat. Zack Greinke produced two singles in last year's World Series, including one as a pinch-hitter for Houston.

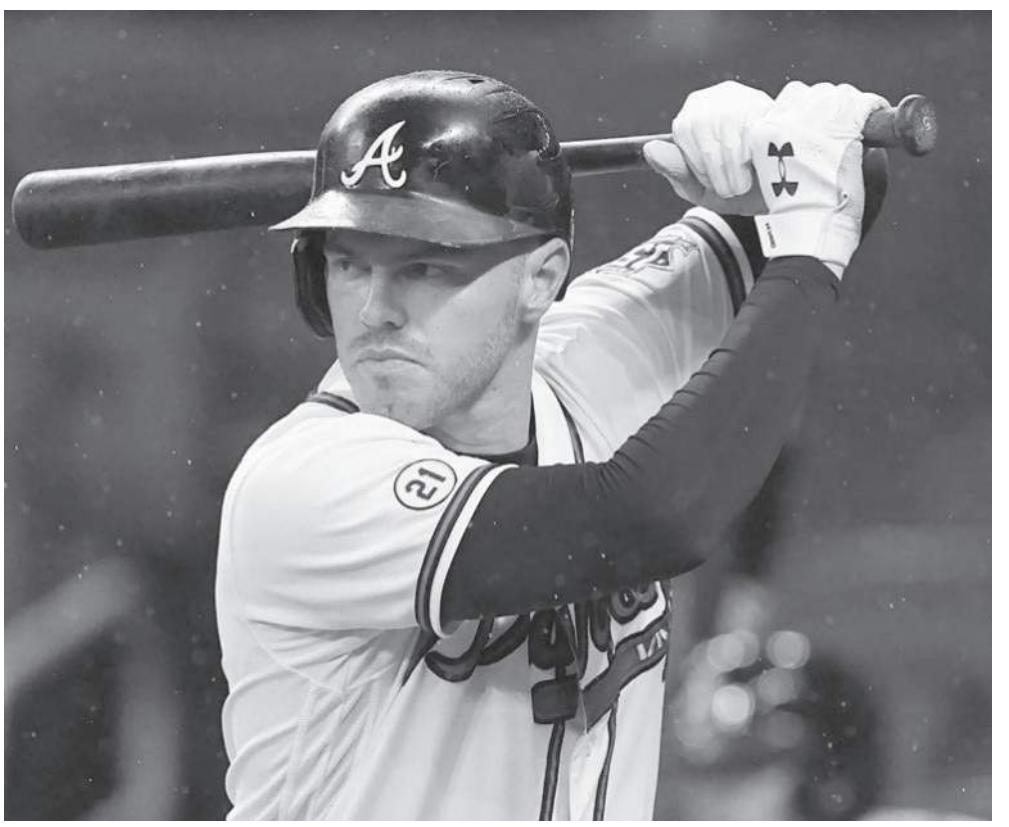
But Diamondbacks infielder Josh Rojas said he didn't expect the change to be a big adjustment.

"I do think it'll help with run production on the National League side," Rojas said. "Having that pitcher in the nine-hole kind of cut off some rallies sometimes, or having to bunt him over instead of swinging it. ... I don't mind the DH."

The DH position could also provide more jobs for the sport's 30-somethings, who might not be as fleet in the field but can still swing the bat at a high level. Here are a handful of free agents who could benefit most from having the DH available for all teams:

■ Nick Castellanos: The 30-year-old has developed into one of the best all-around hitters in the game after batting .309 with 38 doubles and 34 homers in a 2021 All-Star campaign for the Cincinnati Reds. He's a little shaky defensively in the infield and outfield, but is in his prime offensively and shouldn't slow down any time soon.

■ Kyle Schwarber: The square-shaped masher has always been a little better in the batter's box than in the field. The 2021 All-Star smacked 32 homers last season and the 29-year-old is an on-base machine when he's healthy. There are a lot of teams that would like that production, especially knowing he doesn't have to spend 162 games in the outfield.



AP

Atlanta Braves' Freddie Freeman (5) bats during a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, Sept. 15, 2021, in Atlanta.

■ Freddie Freeman: The Atlanta Braves star is a solid first baseman, but he's not getting any younger at 32 years old. As he looks for a big contact in free agency, NL teams will be happy to know that Freeman's bat can remain in the lineup even if he slows down some in the field.

■ Nelson Cruz: Now past his 30s, Cruz is proving that 40-somethings can still swing the bat, too. The 41-year-old has spent a huge chunk of his career at DH in the American League. Now there are 15 more teams in play who certainly wouldn't mind adding his presence in the middle of the lineup. He's got 449 career homers.

■ Eddie Rosario: He's just OK defensively and almost never walks, but when Rosario swings the bat, good things can happen. The Braves picked him up for the stretch run last season and was the NLCS MVP after batting .560 with three homers against the Dodgers.

Pacifica Insurance offers $5K hole-in-one prize

In its ongoing efforts to further higher education in the Marianas, Pacifica Insurance 17th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open is offering a $5,000 hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 17th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open golf tournament currently scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2022. The first lucky golfer who makes a hole-in-one at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's hole four on the East Course will win the $5,000 prize.

"Diversification of programs, a state-of-the-art campus underway, awesome recovery efforts from our most recent disasters, resilience amidst a global pandemic, and now a historic reaffirmation of its full accreditation for another eight years – this is why we continue to support NMC and its Foundation. They consistently over deliver and exceed expectations," Pacifica Insurance president Shirley Sablan said. "Taking part in this tournament is taking part in the advancement of our future generation. We thank the PROA family for always including us in their journey."

The 2022 NMC Golf Open will be the first major golf tournament of the year.

"The hole-in-one prize offered by Pacifica Insurance helps to fuel the excitement for the event," NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD said. "NMC thanks Pacifica Insurance for their continued support."

NMC

Pacifica Insurance has announced that it is offering a $5,000 hole-in-one prize that will be featured at the upcoming annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 19, 2022.

NMC's Golf Open will be held on the east course of the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. Showtime is at 6am, and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights (low gross and low net) will each receive $500, while $300 and $200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively. Hole-in-one prizes also include a brand new 2022 Civic Sport Hatchback from Joeten Motors, a brand new 2022 Hyundai Kona N-Line from Triple J Motors, a brand new 2022 Toyota Camry from Atkins Kroll Saipan, and $5,000 from McDonald's.

The tournament will also feature many other items such as raffle prizes like smartphones, meals, and much more.

Registration for this year's tournament is closed as the maximum number of players has been reached. Those who have not registered to play but would like to be placed on a player wait list can contact 237-6780.

The college is asking companies, organizations, or individuals who are interested in sponsoring holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the CNMI's post-secondary institution. For more information on how to become a sponsor, please call 237-6780 or email carla.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run on March 18

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan is teaming with the Sunshine Squad of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to hold the Inaugural Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run this Friday, March 18.

The fun run will start at 5:30pm from the Garapan Fishing Base were participants will head south to just past the Japanese Tank Memorial along Quartermaster Road and back, according to Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr.

"We are expecting a strong amount to show up. The hospital personnel, first responders, as well our regular running community. The first 50 registrants get a Run Saipan-designed Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run Dri-Fit T-shirt as well as free refreshments," he said.

Dela Cruz added that the Top 3 make and female runners will get surprise gifts. "They have to win it to see what they will get," he said.

The Run Saipan official extended his gratitude to the Sunshine Squad after the non-profit group donated $1,500 last February to the running club.

"Run Saipan is ecstatic to be partnering with the Sunshine Squad to promote cardiovascular health for the community. That is always our No. 1 goal and invite the entire community to join us on that day. We are always happy to partner with any organization—private business or government—to raise cardiovascular health anytime. All they need to do is call us," said Dela Cruz.

CHCC staff will get a discounted entrance fee of $5. For more information about Run Saipan and the Sunshine Squad's Inaugural Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run, call (670) 287-0891 or email runsaipan@gmail.com.

To register, copy and paste https://raceroster.com/events/2022/588

33/happy-hearts-5k-fun-run-and-walk?fbclid=IwA

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on your browsers.

MARK RABAGO

Run Saipan and CHCC's Sunshine Squad's Inaugural Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run will be held this Friday, March 18.

GCA

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on the coffin, flying high on a couple of powerful spikes to the middle of Tinian's defense to secure the win and the championship.

In lieu of Libut, assistant coaches Leah Fabila and Stephen Balakrishna mentored the champion team on the sidelines.

"These boys are all incredibly talented. They all have the skills and they all work together. I want to thank the school and Mr. C. (Libut) as he was still able to chime in with Zoom. Every now and then he was able to call us and check," said Favila.

Balakrishna, for his part said, he was asked to help the team at the last minute, but didn't have second thoughts serving as assistant coach.

"I knew these kids have something special so I accepted the assistant coaching gig. We started practice early on and practiced a long time just for this two-day tournament. But I guess it all worked out well—all the practice, all the hard work we put in."

GCA finished the elimination round with a 4-1 win-loss record. It won against Tinian, 21-16; Tanapag Middle School 1, 21-5; Dandan Middle School, 21-13; and Hopwood, 21-8. Its only setback came against Mount Carmel School, 13-21.

After the loss to MCS, Balakrishna said GCA regrouped knowing all along that they have to play their best to make the finals, where Tinian was waiting.

"We knew we were gonna go against them in the finals and we knew we had to get ready," he said.

In the playoffs, GCA advanced to the finals after beating Saipan International School, 21-12. Tinian punched its ticket to the championship round following a 21-15 win over Hopwood Middle School 1. Earlier, SIS got the better of TMS 1, 21-16, in the quarterfinals. In the upper bracket, Tinian took out Saipan Community School, 21-15.

The Stallions finished the eliminations with a 4-1 card with wins over TMS 1, 21-17; Hopwood 2, 21-3; MCS, 21-13, and DMS, 21-19. Its only loss was the aforementioned defeat in the hands of GCA.

Aside from Pangelinan and Lee, the other members of the champion GCA Eagles are Seth Balakrishna, Ethan Quichocho, Kouki Watanabe, Brycen Raymundo, Minsu Kim, Noah Lee, Kenny Zhang, Jiahang Wu, Maximus Taitano, Justin Yao Ma, Weile Chen, and Rooney Gil.

GCA succeeded previous boys middle schools champions Hopwood 3 in 2018-2019 and TMS in 2020-2021.

The 2021-2022 Boys Middle School Volleyball Championships was organized by the Public School System Athletics Program, led athletics program director Nick Gross, and Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, spearheaded by president Somia Quan.

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nine are on the girls side. Players from the pool will have a chance to represent the NMI to the FIBA Oceania U15 Championships, which Guam will be hosting in November.

Heman Addy, A.J. Bisanen, Mjay Capalad, Kyrell Cariag, John Enrico Cavinta, Slymark Defang, Austin Diaz, Jerry Faimaw Jr., Lance Lerio, Darnell Lizama, Christian Lucero, Mike Mercado Jr., Jespher Navarro, Jay Pineda, Onick Ragbonshe, Leonara Regalado, Ethan Sablan, Rance Surla, Andrei Viola, and Peter White made the boys pool. The girls group, on the other hand, has Jayla Ayuyu, Asa Backe, Maria Enriquez, Valerie Estella, Aaleyah and Aiyan Fatialofa, Chealszka Navarro, Mya Pangelinan, and Aubrey White.

"The boys team is an exciting group of young men. They come from different clubs all over the island and have sizable height, explosive skills, and impressive basketball knowledge. The young ladies that we currently have possess a great energy for learning and show a vast amount of potential. The girls team is currently still recruiting for more athletes and anyone interested are encourage to contact NMIBF," Apatang said.

After the first selection late last month, the pool has since returned to the court to continue its regular training sessions. The boys pool trains every Tuesday and Friday at the Gilbert C. Ad Gymnasium, while the girls take over the court on Thursdays (Ada) and Saturday TSL Sports Complex.

"Our practices have been focused mainly on conditioning and fundamentals. Both teams will pursue a similar route as the men and women's national teams, such as the phase-type approach. Phases consist of tryouts, off-season, pre-season, and on-season. The teams are currently in the off-season phase, which covers strength and conditioning," Apatang added.

The boys and girls teams are also working with prospective coaches, who will be named along with the final roster for each squad a few months before the November competition.

Meanwhile, the NMIBF is hoping to see players on the boys pool suit up for their respective schools in the upcoming IT&E Interscholastic Middle School Basketball League to gain actual game experience that will be helpful as they prepare for the FIBA Oceania event. ***(PR)***

STUDENTS

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The Tasi to Table official said involving students in the organization of the non-profit's events is part and parcel of its mission and vision when it was established back in July 2020.

"It's something Tasi to Table is doing that is teaching them life lessons as far as organizing and how to put an event together is what the goal is here. It's not only putting this event together but also learning from the Division of Fish and Wildlife data gathering and how to record fish. They did a tremendous job and my hat's off to them again."

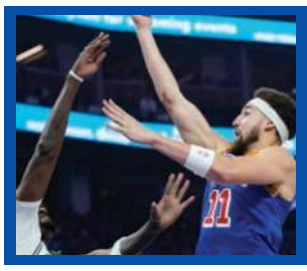
Weaver said while Tasi to Table came three boats short of its expected 40-boat prediction for the 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas, he still deems the fishing derby a success.

"We had 37 boats. I was hoping for 40 but 37 is close enough to 40. The gas prices played a role and also the weather. In the morning it was a little rough, but there was a lot of wahoo caught."

Aside from Weaver, also making up the Tasi to Table set of officers are vice president Dan Wollak, secretary Derik Reyes, and treasurer Alex Castro.

Salty Bandits topped last Saturday's 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas with a catch weighing 48.2-lb. Taking second place was *Mada Flyer* with its 41.1-lb wahoo, while third and fourth place went to *Team Red* and *Keilani-Ko* with their fish weighing 40.2 lbs and 31.7 lbs, respectively. First place, second place, and third place went home with $2,000, $1,500, and $1,000, respectively, while fourth place got in-kind prizes. *Mada Flyer* also won another $500 for coming in first in the total weight award with the fish they caught tipping the scales at 96.8 lbs.

Mobil Oil Marianas and IT&E sponsored the 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas.



Warriors beat Bucks, Klay Thompson has season-high 38 points
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GCA Eagles win middle school volleyball

MARK RABAGO
Grace Christian Academy players and their coaches pose with their 2021-2022 Boys Middle School Volleyball Championships perpetual trophy with Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross and Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association officials Somia Quan and Shawn Davis.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Grace Christian Academy bucked the absence of head coach Cesar Libut and swept Tinian in the finals to win the 2021-2022 Boys Middle School Volleyball Championships last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO
GCA Eagles players celebrate with assistant coach Stephen Balakrishna after sweeping Tinian in the finals last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Eagles soared high in the best-of-three finals, winning Game 1, 21-12, before taking home the crown of the shortened two-day tournament with a 21-14 victory in the second game.

In the final set, Noah Lee gave GCA an early 4-0 lead with his excellent service game. The Stallions would rally a bit but the Eagles would continue to hold them back and had leads of 8-5 and 12-6. Tinian tried its best to force a rubber set by winning 5 of the next 7 points to make it 14-11 as GCA committed a bunch of unforced errors.

The Eagles though responded with 4 straight points as it was Tinian's turn to fumble their chances. Joseph Pangelinan then drove the final nails

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'Students did a tremendous job'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tasi to Table Inc. president Gene Weaver said the backbone of the recently held 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas were the student/volunteers that helped organize the fishing derby.

"The students did a tremendous job in this tournament. This is the 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas and every year it's only getting better. We had over 50 student/volunteers today along with the advisers and they made this possible and they made this happen," he said.

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MARK RABAGO
Student/volunteers pose with Tasi to Table Inc. officials after the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas last March 5 at the weighing station of the Smiling Cove Marina.

29 make NMI hoops U15 national pool

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players under the NMI Junior National Team Program pool perform warm-up drills during an off the court training session last month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

After a month-long tryout, the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has selected 29 players for the NMI Junior National Team Program to move forward with its preparations for a regional tournament late this year.

NMIBF vice president David Apatang, who oversees the junior program, said 20 players have been initially named to the boys U15 pool, while

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